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Chernihiv and the Tatars: 1198-1278

Kyiv – 2022

Notes for the readers

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From February 24, 2022, work on the book continued in the conditions of our righteous war against the criminal terrorist state - Rotten Straw Horde (former Russia), which was reflected in the content of the book.

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This my work is dedicated to the
heroical city Chernihiv

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Preface

The history of Chernihiv region in 1198-1278 is of great interest both for local history and for clarifying the ways of political development of our lands in the 13th century.

In this work, it will be traced on the basis of sources as close as possible in time to the events themselves. At the same time, we will have to say goodbye to some myths and fables of later fabrication, which in some places still stand in for real knowledge.

Technically, the work consists of two parts. The first chapters present a popular (but at the same time strictly scientific) history of events in the Chernihiv Principality itself and its surroundings. Popularity was achieved by refusing to analyze sources, literature and polemics on certain small issues, the essence of which is not clear enough for a wide circle of readers. Scholarlyness is achieved by references to a consolidated chronological table, through which the reader will gain access to primary sources.

All special questions have been transferred to the "Scientific background" section. There, the inquisitive reader will find an extracts from the sources, a consolidated chronological table and a large series of excursions on source studies, historiography and various debatable issues. The state of our sources is such that almost every question is debatable, but there is by the nature of things.

A small technical detail: when specifying geographic objects, I often indicate their affiliation to the district. District division, which operated in Ukraine in 1966-2020, is used everywhere here. To switch to the modern district division, you can use the directory on the website "[Ancestral glory](#)".

Introduction: How do we know about the events of the past?

I did not plan to write this chapter, but decided to add it in the third month of our war against the Pushkinists (the "population" of the Rotten-Straw Horde). They planned to end the war in Washington, but for the third month they cannot capture either the big Mariupol or the small Popasna. Even the glorious conqueror Lukashenko (bulbo-führer of the Potato Horde) [no longer promises](#) to be in Kyiv "in two days", but says (May 5, 2022) that he was not going to fight at all.

But he is lying, and we know it. And he knows he's lying, and he knows it. And we know he knows it. And he knows that we know it, and hope to see him on the gallows.

And while it has not come to that – I will continue (May 6, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.)

Since the first part of the work is mainly of a popular nature, I want to start the conversation with the question posed in the title.

What is a "primary source"

High-quality and low-quality sources

Sources for the history of Rus' of the 13th century

Other written sources

Archaeological sources

The incompleteness of our sources

And now let's try to break through all the mentioned obstacles and immerse ourselves in the events of our past, in the events of the 13th century.

Four necessary remarks

The war continues and I take seriously the possibility of a nuclear attack on Kyiv, which [are discussing](#) political commentators. To all considerations "well, Russia can't..." this war gave clear answers every time: it can. If it has not used nuclear weapons so far, it is only because it does not have the technical ability to do so.

I'm not panicking, I'm just repeating that I'm aware: every key I press can be the last in my life.

On this optimistic note – I continue (April 18, 2022 at 8:20 am).

From the beginning, I did not plan this unit. The idea to write it came to me as a result of reading the historiography on the topic, and this reading fell on the time of the war, hence the preamble, which is not present in the neighboring units written in the pre-war period.

Ladder right

Generation of princes

Prince on a new throne

"Great" and "partial" princes

Chernihiv Empire (1198 – 1223)

Olgovychs princes at the beginning of the 13th century

In this and the following chapters, I will not try to exhaust the questions posed in the headings, but only want to give a general outline of the place of the Olgovychs princes in the internal politics of ancient Rus in the first half of the 13th century.

In total, we have as many as 13 souls who were Olgovychs and could theoretically be part of the group that the Vladimir chronicler had in mind. But the personal role of these princes in subsequent events cannot be established, because it was unknown even to contemporaries of those events.

And only from 1206 ([T-24](#)) Vsevolod Chermny became the leader of the Olgovychs corporation.

The first war for the Galician heritage (1201 – 1203)



Rus in 1237

The basis of the map scheme was borrowed from [Wikipedia](#).

As of 1201, the Olgovychs felt a decrease in their political weight compared to the time of Svyatoslav Vsevolodovich († 1194), who was the prince of Kyiv and more or less successfully played the role of suzerain of all Rus'. The traditional object of their expansion should have been Kyiv, but somewhere in the last years of the 12th century the last representative of the Galician Rostislavichs dynasty died – Prince Volodymyr Yaroslavich...

So, in order to expel Roman from Halych, the Olgovychs concluded an alliance with the Kyiv prince Rurik Rostislavich (from the Smolensk Rostislavichs family), temporarily renouncing their claims to Kyiv.

Neither military force, nor diplomacy, nor meanness – nothing helped Roman to take possession of the Kyiv golden throne!

And what about Chernihiv and Olgovychs? In the dry outcome of this first war for the Galician heritage, they gained nothing, but also they did not lose anything. They had some guarantee of neutrality from the Vladimir principality, they tried to maintain an alliance with the Kyiv-Smolensk Rostislavichs (not always successfully), and they were at war with the Galician prince Roman.

... At the same time, on the upper reaches of the Kerulen River, the petty robber Temujin, the son of the equally petty robber Yesugei, was waging his petty war with little-known robbers *Tatars*. And this "war" was not all happy for Temujin, because some one (one!) Tatar almost killed Toluj, the youngest son of Temujin (in order of blood revenge). If Temujin had continued to engage in robbery and counter-robbery operations, then on the Dnieper, 5,000 kilometers to the west, they might not be sorry for him. But something went wrong there, on the headwaters of Kerulen...

Second war for the Galician heritage (1205 – 1206)

The situation that arose at the end of 1203 as a result of the first war for the Galician inheritance did not last long.

The death of Roman Mstislavich during the campaign to Poland (May 19, 1205, [T-17](#)) moved a whole avalanche!

The Igorovychs took control of the main centers of the Galician principality. They even exceeded the plan, expelling the Romanovychs not only from disputed Galicia, but also from their undisputed homeland – Volyn. It can be assumed that this happened in August or in the autumn month of 1206.

Thus, September 1206 was the time of complete triumph of the Olgovychs: **everyone** princely thrones of southern Rus': Chernihiv, Pereyaslavl, Kyiv, Halych and Volyn – came under their rule.

But...

The struggle against the oppression of the Olgovychs (1206 – 1208)

It was not for nothing that I ended my story about the triumph of the Olgovychs with a word *but*. Their dominance in half of the territory of ancient Rus' automatically made all their neighbors their enemies, and it was impossible to conclude any kind of peace that would at least somehow, even for a short time, ensure the recognition of their successes. We do not even see such attempts. The enemies did not hesitate to start a rematch.

The ephemeral "empire of the Olgovychs" began to crumble, not having lasted even three months.

From the entire history of the "Olgovychs empire" one can deduce the Leninist science (I'm not kidding!) that seizing power is relatively easy, but keeping it is much more difficult. The proverb "the enemy does not sleep" was never as timely as it was for the Olgovychs in 1207.

La comedia finita – at the end of 1208, the Olgovychs lost all their gains and were driven back to Chernihiv region.

The Galician catastrophe of the Igorovychs (1209 – 1211)

I wanted to start another chapter of our story with words *la comedia continuata*, but here we will have to talk about a tragedy, and one from which a talented author could create a new "Macbeth"...

This is what this catastrophe looks like on the pages of the Romanovychs' Chronicle, and only the last episode has independent confirmation in the "Chronicle of Yury Vsevolodovich". In the entire previous history of the whole of Eastern Europe, we do not have such a scale of violence that can be called a civil war. Even if the chronicler exaggerated and in fact not 500 boyars were killed, but 50 or even 15 – in this case, we will not see anything similar later until the oprichnina of Tsar Ivan the Terrible.

The end of Vsevolod Chermny (1210 – 1212)

Calling the execution of princes Igorovychs in Galicia a catastrophe, I did not exaggerate in the slightest. Despite the fact that Volodymyr Igorovych was saved from the Galician disaster, this event literally swept the entire younger branch of the Olgovychs from the political arena, so we no longer know anything about the representatives of the 10th generation, nor about the 11th or subsequent generations. Paraphrasing Bill Gates, we can say: "If you are not in the annals, you do not exist at all."

The new political structure lasted more than a year, perhaps even 15 months (from the beginning of 1211 to the spring of 1212), and it was brought down by none other than Vsevolod Chermny himself.

As a result of this war, the Olgovychs were once again driven to Chernihiv region, Kyiv came under the rule of the princes of the Smolensk family, the Novgorod army took booty, and Ingvar Yaroslavich once again "marked a business trip" in Kyiv.

The possessions of the Olgovychs sometimes expanded and then decreased like a blacksmith's bellows – with a period of several years. And here we record another minimum, which became a distant consequence of the same Igorovych disaster.

So, in 1212, three main figures left the stage – princes Rurik Rostislavich, Vsevolod Yuriyovich Vladimirsky and Vsevolod Svyatoslavich Chermny.

Now the duty of guarding Rus' fell on the shoulders of the younger brothers and sons of the late princes.

Chernihiv and the Battle of Kalka (1215-1223)

Events of 1215 – 1220

Polovtsians complain about Tatars

Russian princes were afraid of the Polovtsy

Approximate chronology of events

What did the Tatars do?

Campaign of Russian princes

The reasons for the defeat

The consequence of the great defeat of the Rus' forces in Kalka was the addition of the Tatar intelligence report: the western steppe is cut by several large rivers flowing from the north, from the land of the Rus'. The Rus' have statehood, princes and fortified cities, but the people are weak, it is easy to beat them.

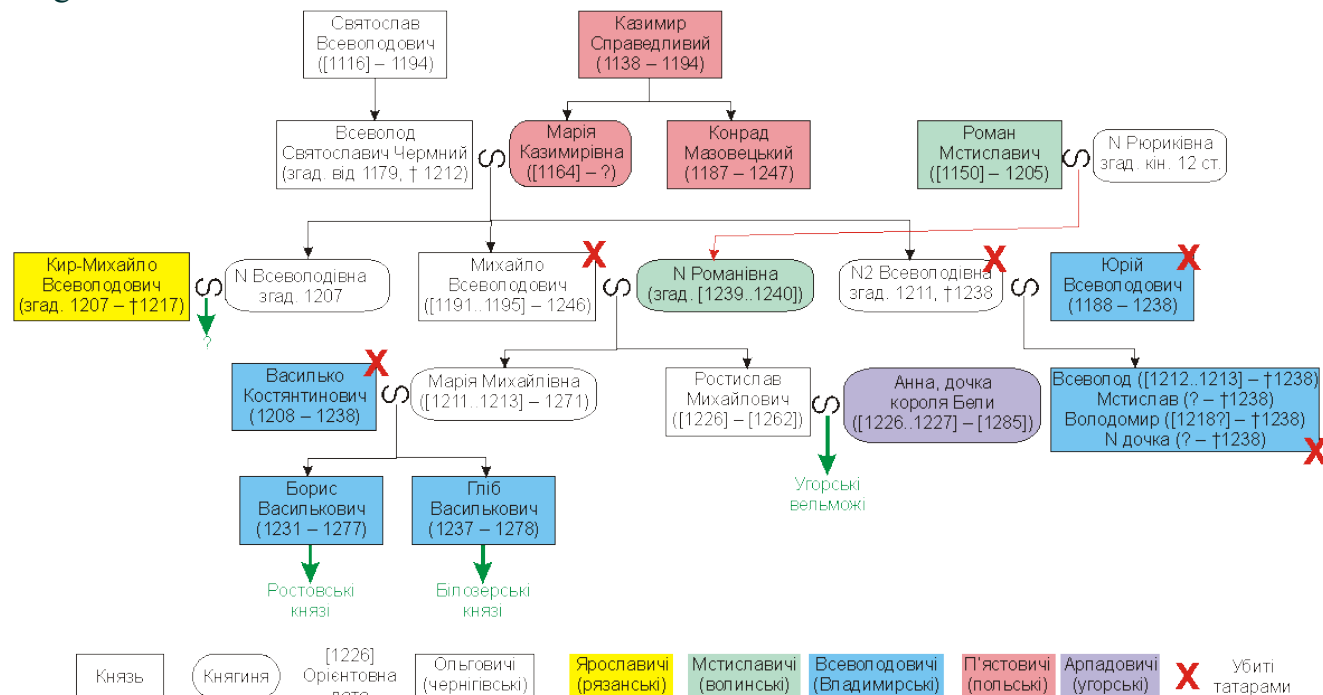
And this information had a certain significance for further events...

Prince Michael Vsevolodovych (1223 – 1241)

Family circle

In 1223, in the battle of Kalka, the last representative of the older generation of the Olgovychs died, and the Chernihiv principality came under the rule of representatives of the next generation (the 11th, counting from Rurik). In it, we know only two princes – Michael Vsevolodovich (more) and Mstislav Glibovich (very little). The decrease in the number of the genus threatened its extinction, which happened already in the next (12th) generation.

For greater visibility of Michael's family ties, I present the following genealogical diagram:



Genealogical connections of Prince Michael Vsevolodovych

Michael Vsevolodovych had no family ties with the Smolensk Rostislavichs, although he often acted together with them in politics. He also had family ties with the Volyn Romanovychs, but was constantly at odds with them in politics.

The first reign in Novgorod (1225)

Everything we know about Michael is related to his participation in inter-princely relations. The first enterprise of this kind was his participation in the coalition of Vladimir princes against Novgorod the Great.

Yuri's marriage to Vsevolod Cherny's daughter had some political consequences, giving Yuri an ally in Chernihiv and Michael a throne in Novgorod. Both princes were satisfied with what had been achieved and withdrew their forces from Torzhok.

Who represented Michael in Chernihiv during his Novgorod "business trip" – our sources do not know, but it was clear that the long absence of the prince would cost him a throne, because not only Novgorodians knew how to say "And we will find a prince."

So, Michael returned to Chernihiv (approximately at the end of 1225), and the people of Novgorod invited Prince Yaroslav Vsevolodovich to the throne. (And Yaroslav – I note casually – in the winter of the same year had to repel a Lithuanian attack on Torzhok. This would have been impossible if there had been no prince in Novgorod.)

Chernihiv – Vladimir axis (1226 – 1228)

In Chernihiv, Michael was awaited by a new, completely incomprehensible trouble with Prince Oleg of Kursk.

This adventure testifies to the effectiveness of the Chernihiv-Vladimir political axis, which we have been following since 1210.

The Rus' princes forgot about the Tatars, and the Tatars? Apparently, at the same time, the Juchid princes, the eldest of whom was Baty (Batu), received a promise of help for further expansion to the west, but whether it would ever come to fruition – no one could know at that time...

"Lazy war" in Volyn (1228-1229)

We know about the next campaign of Michael Vsevolodovich (roughly – in the winter of 1228 / 1229) only from a very confused and unclear story of the Romanovychs' chronicler.

Finally:

1. We do not know the reasons for this "lazy war". I consider the talk about the aggrieved Rostislav and the fact that someone once cut someone's hair there to be successful disinformation, which hid the true motives from us. In the end, Rostislav, who was allegedly the cause of the war, did not achieve anything, and there is not even a mention of him anymore.

2. We do not know the goal(s) of the war, and we only see that no one achieved anything, all the princes remained in their possessions. The winners were only the Polovtsy, who looted some lands of the Galician principality. From this whole story, one can write a good comedy on the immortal theme "Where two quarrel, the third takes advantage."

3. It is significant for the Chernihiv principality that Michael Vsevolodovich first came into contact with representatives of Hungary and showed his interest in expansion to the west, which was stopped in 1211. The importance of this direction of politics for Michael will continue to grow.

The second reign in Novgorod (1229 – 1232)

If the "lazy war" discussed by us in the previous chapter really ended no later than February 1229 (as researchers think), then it was very timely for Prince Michael Vsevolodovich. The fact is that on February 20, 1229, another revolution began in Novgorod the Great, and princes Fedor and Alexander Yaroslavichs were taken out of the city...

On this occasion, for the first time in our sources, prince Rostislav Mykhailovich is mentioned. His biography is very important for our topic. Michael would by no means push the little boy Rostislav to the Novgorod throne if he had an adult (or at least slightly

older) son. But he was not there, and Rostislav was the only "political asset" of his father. Historians' attempts to combine other sons of Michael are unstable.

And in the future – until the very end of the existence of the Chernihiv principality, that is, during the next 8 years – we have no news about the settlement of this conflict and, in general, about the political contacts between Chernihiv and Vladimir. The Principality of Vladimir, thanks to its wise leadership, found itself in political isolation just before the great Tatar campaign.

The Novgorod direction of Chernihiv's politics was finally liquidated. The struggle for Novgorod did not benefit Chernihiv either, because the Chernihiv principality gradually slipped into a state of war against all its neighbors at the same time.

In 1232, another Tatar detachment invaded Bulgaria. The Vladimir chronicler only knew about it that the Tatars wintered before reaching the city of Bolgar (Laurentian Chronicle under 6740 / 1232).

"Not every thunder strikes, and if it strikes, just not for us" – this seems to be the end of the political philosophy of the Rus' princes. The limited political horizons, the traditional absence of strong external enemies, and the same traditional reticence of politicians in communication within Rus' were a big problem, and ancient Rus' died faster than it even had time to realize this danger.

War for Chernihiv (1233-1235)

Michael Vsevolodovych's first attempt to seize Kyiv failed.

But Michael would be a bad Olgovych if he did not make a new attempt, and this new attempt is tentatively dated to the end of 1234.

The coalition forces of Volodymyr and Danylo went on the offensive and marched on Chernihiv. They were joined by Prince Mstislav Glibovych, the second brother of Michael.

Over Ros' river, near [Torchesk](#), a battle took place in which the Rus' princes were completely defeated. Everything obtained by the hard work of robbers in Chernihiv region fell into the hands of new, more convenient robbers.

As a result of the defeat of the Kyiv coalition and the victory of the Chernihiv coalition, Izyaslav became the prince of Kyiv, and Michael Vsevolodovych – prince of Galicia.

Who won and who lost in this war?

In my opinion, all Rus' princes lost. It was not possible to expel Michael Vsevolodovych from Chernihiv, but the destruction of the Chernihiv land and the suburbs of Chernihiv itself should undoubtedly be considered as its weakening on the eve of the Batu's campaign and indirect help to the Tatars. And our "state creator" – Prince Danylo Romanovych – is responsible for this.

The destruction of the land of Kyiv and the shameful capture of Kyiv by the Polovtsy should also be considered indirect help to the Tatars. The defeat by the Polovtsy near Torchesk reduced the military potential of the Kyiv and Halych principalities, Danylo was left completely (or almost completely) without an army.

The only side of the conflict that clearly won was the Polovtsy. The capture of the Kyiv prince was their greatest military and political success in the entire history of this nation.

Meanwhile, the enemy continued to do his work. In the same year 1235, in which the Rus' princes competed in the destruction of Russian lands, the Tatar Khan Ugedei summoned *kurultai* – a congress of the state's highest nobility, at which the long-planned march to the west was decided.

Reign in Halych (1235-1238)

We saw that the war in **1235 year** instead of ending with the expected expulsion of Prince Michael Vsevolodovych from Chernihiv, it ended with the unexpected expulsion of Prince Danylo Romanovych from Halych.

Having established himself in Galicia, Michael probably did not think that he would never rule in his native Chernihiv again, that he would turn into a vagabond prince (gadger) who would be chased away by all who wished. But at the moment we are talking about, there was still more to come...

In **1236 year**, the army of prince Batu fought in Volga Bulgaria, destroyed its main centers and conquered the Bulgarians (so that in the future they became known as Tatars and are called that to this day). From Bulgaria to Halych is 1,800 km, and even the echo of these events did not reach Volyn, the chronicler of the Roman's family...

It was Michael's greatest political success in his entire life! He sat down on the golden Kyiv throne, which his father left 26 years ago. Once again, as in 1206, the three main principalities of southern Rus' – Chernihiv, Kyiv, and Galicia – came under the rule of the Olgovychs. For complete happiness, all that remained was to stop time at this moment...

The vagabond prince (1239-1241)

Yes, if it were possible to stop time, if not for good, then at least for 10 or 20 years, then the reign of Michael Vsevolodovych in Kyiv, and his son Rostislav in Galicia, could become a model of stability and (perhaps) prosperity. But in the conditions of general anarchy, time does not slow down, but seems to speed up...

The new "empire of the Olgovychs" of the model of 1238 turned out to be no more stable than the "empire" of the model of 1206. In a couple of months, approximately **in the fall of 1238**, Rostislav lost Halych.

The Tatars struck the second blow against the possessions of the Olgovychs – in they **1239 year** destroyed Chernihiv. It would seem that the presence of two neighboring principalities under the rule of representatives of the same family of Olgovychs should have contributed to the unification of their efforts against the enemy – but we do not see anything of the kind.

When leaving Kyiv, Michael had no idea that he was leaving the last city where he had any power. He thought that the circumstances that were unpleasant for him would change into more useful ones, and – paraphrasing the people of Novgorod – he would find the principality for himself with his title of prince. But it didn't turn out that way...

The same can be said about the motives of Daniil's behavior as about the motives of Michael – he was also a veteran of Kalka and was just as afraid to fight against the Tatars.

Having performed such a glorious state-building act as leaving the capital of Rus' to fend for itself in front of the enemy onslaught, Danylo returned to his safe (as he thought) Volyn (Kyiv – 450 km – Volodymyr; March 1240).

And at the very moment when Danylo could have triumphed – his enemies were crushed and humbled, and he united three principalities under his rule – at this very moment the news came that the Tatars had destroyed Kyiv and were now going to Volhynia...

Flee! Here our state-makers rushed to flee, but if Michael and Rostislav fled from the Tatars in a disorderly and shameful manner, Danylo and Vasylko fled honorably and solemnly.

Michael fell not only from the social top to the social bottom, but also from the Upper Kyiv Mountain down to the island. The visible territorial change was the counterpart of the change in the social state, which in itself is not visible.

The downfall of the Chernihiv principality (1237 – 1246)

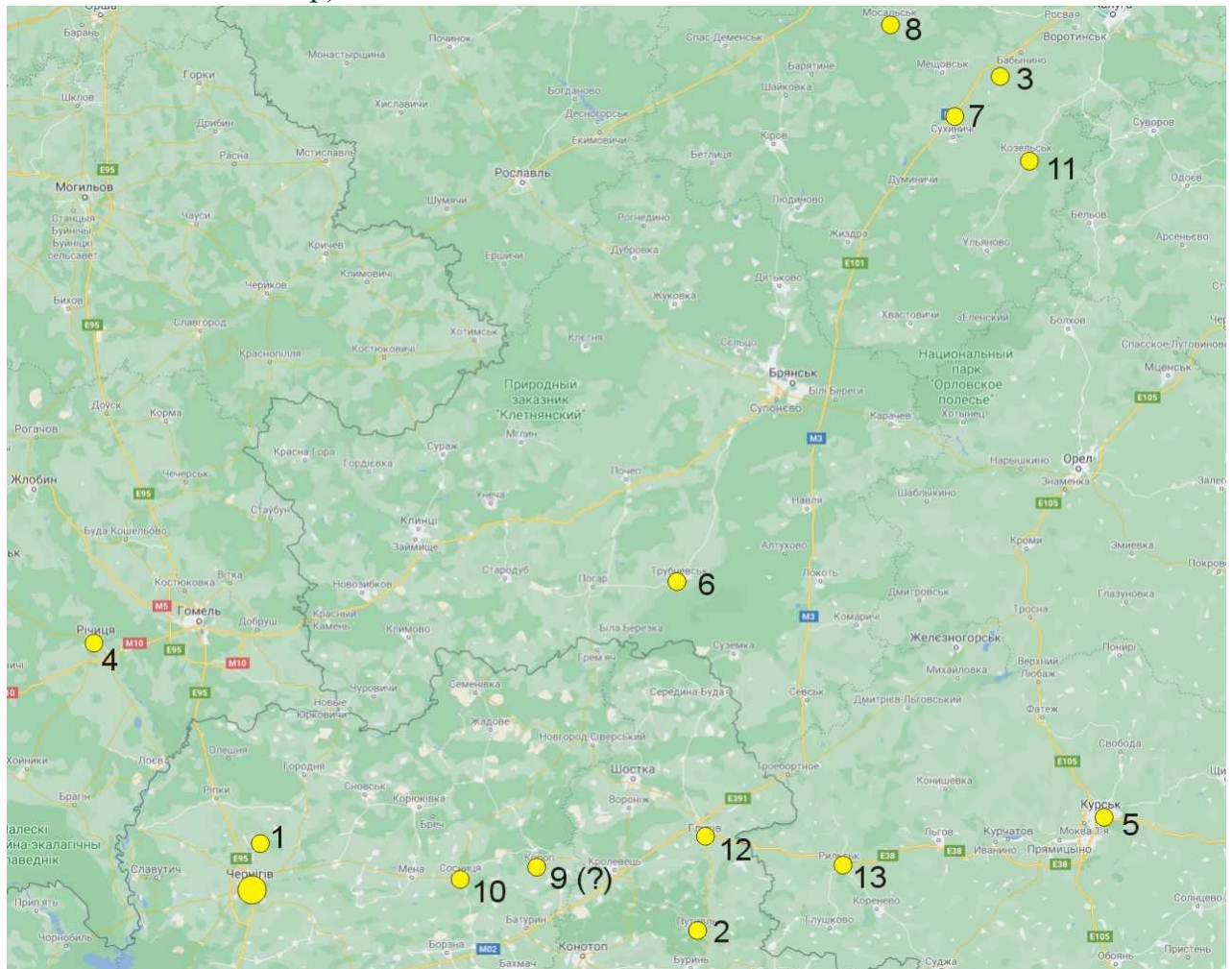
Chernihiv principality on the eve of the Batu' campaign

Now let's see what the Chernihiv principality was like in the first decades of the 13th century, at the end of the existence of this ancient Rus' political unit.

Naturally, most source references concern the capital itself **Chernihiv**, so there can be no doubt that the city existed.

Bishops of Chernihiv mentioned several times.

From the number **other cities** in the Chernihiv principality is mentioned (numbers are numbers on the map):



*Map of the Chernihiv principality
(based on Google Maps)*

Written sources mention other princes outside Chernihiv on the territory of the Chernihiv principality. The most important mention seems to be the **Putivl** in 1207 in connection with the activities of prince Volodymyr Igorovych.

What were the relations of these little-known provincial princes to Chernihiv city and the Chernihiv prince?

Was there any system in the distribution of thrones within the Chernihiv principality – from sources of the 13th century is not visible.

The destruction of the Chernihiv principality by the Tatars

General outline of the Tatar campaign of 1237-1238

The Tatar campaign of 1239 in southern Rus'

Winter Tatar campaign of 1240 / 41 years

Results of the Tatar campaign

In Rus', the Tatars perfectly understood the meaning of "Rus' land" in the narrow sense of the term for the entire country and took care to destroy all three principalities of "Rus' land" – Kyiv, Chernihiv and Pereyaslav. They did not allow the revival of political life in these lands, rightly considering such revival as a threat to their power.

Literary "defense of Kozelsk"

The story about the defense of Kozelsk is included in the general story about the Batu's campaign. It should be noted that the contemporary annals of the campaign – Novgorod and Vladimir (Laurentian annals) do not know anything about Kozelsk or its defense.

The story is written by a masterful writer and despite its small volume has all the necessary compositional elements – exposition (Batu and the little prince Vasyl), knotting of the intrigue (townsmen decide to defend themselves), rapid development of the action with a climax (the death of the participants of the sortie), denouement (the destroying of the town) and the epilogue (the fate of prince Vasyl). Also, the story has features of "history", because it first talks about the actions of the Kozelsk townsmen, and then – about the actions of the Tatars.

If we remove all literary parallels and obvious exaggerations from the above story, we will have the dry residue: the Tatars destroyed Kozelsk. There can be no objections to such information.

The literary history of this episode may turn out to be interesting, because it is far from over. Even now, new works of fiction about the siege of Kozelsk continue to arrive.

The death of prince Michael Vsevolodovich

We left prince Michael Vsevolodovich on an island near Kyiv, where he arrived, according to the assumptions made, sometime in the summer of 1241.

All three sources tell generally the same thing: Michael came to the Horde, he was required to perform some rites incomprehensible to Christians, he refused to perform

them and was killed on September 20, 1246. This is an invariant, the skeleton common to all sources.

Where did Michael come from?

Where did Michael go?

Why did Michael come to Batu?

What did Michael come with?

What did the Tatars accuse Michael of?

What happened in the Batu's head-quarters?

Did the boyar Fedor exist?

When did the murder happen?

Where were Michael and Fedor buried?

The significance of the death of Michael and Fedor.

Only one thing is certain – Batu set out to exterminate everyone who was called the "Prince of Chernihiv", even if he could not be distinguished from a robber. The Tatars decided not to allow any revival of the Chernihiv principality, and this decision also extended to the principalities of Pereyaslav and Kyiv, and even to a certain extent to Galicia. It's just that for other principalities there were no people willing to experimentally check whether such a solution exists or not. The experience of the Chernihiv princes looked quite convincing.

And so the Chernihiv principality disappeared from the political maps, while in previous years no significant political enterprise was carried out without it.

Heritage of the Chernihiv principality (1246 – 1278)

Prince Rostislav Mykhailovych

Prince Michael Vsevolodovych had only two children who reached adulthood – daughter Maria (elder) and son Rostislav (younger).

What do we know about him?

That's all we learn about Rostislav from the Romanovychs' chronicle.

Further actions of Rostislav until his death in 1262 (? 1264?) belong to the history of Hungary, where he, as the son-in-law of the king, managed to occupy a respectable position. But they didn't know anything about it in Rus'.

Rostislav fathered two sons and four daughters with princess Anna. His sons were nobles in Hungary, but they left no descendants. And this was the end of the once numerous and glorious family of Chernihiv Olgovychs.

Who won the battle near Yaroslavl?

It is traditionally believed that Prince Danylo Romanovych defeated all his enemies, firmly took control of Galicia, and this ended the forty-year war for the Galician heritage.

It can be assumed that the Tatars destroyed not only the principalities of Chernihiv, Pereyaslav and Kyiv, but also the principality of Galicia, although in a less brutal way. But the result was the same – no prince ever lived permanently in Halych, and therefore did not rule here.

Rostov relatives of prince Michael Vsevolodovych

Maria, the daughter of prince Michael Vsevolodovych, was first mentioned at the beginning of 1228 on the occasion of her marriage to prince Vasylo Kostiantynovich of Rostov ([T-93](#)).

On July 24, 1231, they had a son, who was named Boris (in memory of Saint prince Boris, who is commemorated on this day, [T-113](#)).

In 1237 or at the beginning of 1238, their second son was born, whose name was already "programmed" – he was named Gleb.

What do we know next about Maria, Boris and Gleb?

This is all we know about the daughter and grandchildren of prince Michael Vsevolodovich. As for the 13th century, these are very detailed biographies. From them, we see that the Rostov princes took part in the affairs of their family (episodes 5, 17, 22, 25), took care of the church (episodes 8, 18) and helped the Tatars to rule (episodes 16, 28, 32).

The only thing that Boris did not have to do throughout his life was to fight. Gleb had to fight once on the side of the Tatars against the Alans. (Later, all this was called "the heroic struggle of the great Russian people against the Tatar yoke".)

But why do we need to know about the princes of Rostov for the history of the Chernihiv principality?

Michael had one daughter – Maria, the wife of prince Vasylo of Rostov, and their two grandsons – Boris and Gleb, who are discussed here. So they were the closest heirs to Michael.

And for 32 years (1246 – 1278), we have no hint that Boris or Gleb raised questions about their Chernihiv heritage.

This is how important the activity (or inactivity) of the Rostov princes is for the history of the Chernihiv principality.

Mythical "sons" of prince Michael Vsevolodovych

From historical sources contemporary to the events themselves (or extremely close to the time of the events), we know that after the attack of Batu in 1237-1241, there were no princes left on the territory of the former Chernihiv principality.

Of great importance is the fact that all three of our main sources – the Laurentian chronicle, which was written in Vladimir, the first Novgorod chronicle, which was written in Novgorod the Great, and the Romanovychs' chronicle, which was written in Volyn – all of them continued after 1239 for many more decades. And from all three sources, the Chernihiv principality disappears – simultaneously and unanimously.

This cannot be a coincidence, it means the disappearance of the very subject of reference, that is, the principality as a political structure.

In such a situation, it is safe to say that there were no princes, no power on the territory of the former Chernihiv principality after 1239, and all talk about "Chernihiv princes of the Tatar era" belongs to fiction (not a very good one).

Having clarified the most general features of the scheme of origin and social role of the group of "Verkhovski" princes, we can move on to the second question posed above: how these princes turned into ~~sons of Lieutenant Schmidt~~ descendants of prince Michael Vsevolodovych?

The answer was found in the way of expanding genealogical books. The task was set – to record all "passportless" princely families in Rurikovichs.

This is how the outwardly slender, but completely illusory system of Moscow genealogical books was formed, in which every princely family was traced back to Rurik. This contributed to the consolidation of the ruling elite of the newly formed Moscow state, and the "troubled time" was postponed for more than a century, until the extinction of the Moscow princely family in 1598.

And this is how our "Lieutenant Schmidt" had "sons" – two hundred and seventy-odd years after the death of the "father"!

Mythical "princes of Chernihiv" from "List of prince Constantine"

But what to do with the "Chernihiv princes of the Tatar era", to whom everyone is so accustomed? Authoritative reference books count as many as 19 of them (nineteen, my dear!).

Some of the princes from the given list are completely fictitious (there is no source data about them either from the time of their hypothetical "life" or from a recent time). We have such source data about some other princes, but they do not relate to Chernihiv and their mythical "princely rule" in Chernihiv.

I (Nicholas Zharkikh) investigated the history of the origin of this hoax, and it turned out to be quite simple. Just to see this simplicity, I had to write several monographs.

Posthumous trials of Michael and Fedor

Prince Michael Vsevolodovich, who reigned in Chernihiv, Novgorod the Great, Halych and Kyiv, was the only one from the Olgovychs family who received "life after life", strong posthumous fame on the territory of Great Russia.

Manifestations of this posthumous glory are dedicated [a separate section](#) in "Scientific background"; here its content is rewritten in a strong reduction, in the form of conclusions.

Conclusions

The period of 80 years, from 1198 to 1278, chosen by me as the chronological frame of the presentation, is divided exactly in half by the tragic year 1239, when the Tatars destroyed Chernihiv.

In the first 40 years, before the attack of the Tatars, we have a relatively abundant series of news about Chernihiv princes (more precisely, about members of the Olgovychs family) and the Chernihiv principality. All of them come from sources external to Chernihiv (Vladimir, Novgorod, and Volyn chronicles) and relate mainly to the participation of the Olgovychs in the political affairs of other principalities or all of Rus'.

Rus' chronicles of the 13th century acquired a distinctly regional character: chroniclers were mainly interested in the affairs of their own lands, and no one could cover Rus' as a whole. In addition, the Volyn annals show systematic hostility towards the Olgovychs as enemies of the Volyn princes and, at every opportunity, complain about the latter.

Because of these features of the sources, the inner life of the Olgovychs dynasty and the Chernihiv principality is almost unknown, and this cannot be overcome. We do not know the exact dates of the stay of the princes even at the Chernihiv throne. We have no information about the smaller princely centers of Chernihiv region. We do not have complete data on the composition of the princely families, instead we have mentions of some princes who could belong to the Olgovychs, but their exact genealogical position was not outlined in the sources, was not known even to their contemporaries. But all this is not a reason to fill the void with fantasies, as "academic historians" like to do.

The high status of the Chernihiv principality until 1239 stems from the fact that no significant political enterprise of southern Rus' was complete without the participation of the Olgovychs princes and Chernihiv principality.

When at the end of the 12th century prince Volodymyr Yaroslavich died (the last representative of the Galician Rostislavichs dynasty) – the idea immediately arose to fill the empty Galician throne with one of his relatives – the sons of the Seversky prince Igor Svjatoslavych and Volodymyr's sister (Yaroslavna). During the life of the brave (more precisely, indiscriminate in means) prince of Volyn, Roman Mstislavich, who captured the Galician throne, the war for the Galician heritage was successful for Roman.

But everything changed after his death in 1205. As a result of the next war in 1206 **all** the principalities of southern Rus' – Chernihiv, Pereyaslav, Kyiv, Volyn and Galicia – were occupied by members of the Olgovychs dynasty.

This hegemony of the Olgovychs – a kind of "Chernihiv Empire" – was not to the liking of the neighboring princes, and this configuration of power did not last very long. But it should be noted that no one else managed to achieve even such an ephemeral unification of the Old Rus' principalities.

The political biography of prince Vsevolod Svjatoslavych Chermny lasted only 7 years (1206-1212) and was filled with his attempts to assert himself at the Kyiv throne.

During the 6 years of their rule in the Galician principality (1206-1211), princes Igorovychs managed to arouse the strong hatred of the local boyars towards themselves. This hatred was fueled by external influences (Polish princes and especially the Hungarian king), who were interested in maintaining constant (stable) instability, hoping

to get some benefits for themselves from such a situation. As a result, in 1211, Galician boyars rebelled, captured princes Roman and Svyatoslav Igorovychs and hanged them. Their brother – Volodymyr Igorovych – escaped, and we no longer know anything about him, or about the younger branch of the Olgovychs family as a whole.

This Galician disaster indirectly affected the position of the Kyiv prince Vsevolod Chernmy. The princes of Smolensk – the traditional rivals of the Olgovychs in the struggle for Kyiv – together with the Novgorod army, waged a war against him, which Vsevolod lost and was forced to retreat from Kyiv. Somewhere during these adventures, he died, but we do not know exactly where, when and under what circumstances it happened, we do not know where he was buried.

From 1210, it is possible to trace the political union of Chernihiv and Vladimir principalities, cemented by several dynastic marriages.

In 1223, the princes of Chernihiv took part in the campaign against the Tatars, which ended in the battle of Kalka, which was unfortunate for Rus'. Our sources do not know what specific role Chernihiv troops played in this battle, they do not provide the circumstances of the death of Chernihiv prince Mstislav Svyatoslavich, they do not know the name of his son, who also died during the escape.

From 1225, our sources relatively fully cover the activities of Chernihiv prince Michael Vsevolodovich, son of Vsevolod Chernmy. But this completeness again concerns only his external activities, so we do not know exactly when he became the prince of Chernihiv, when he got married, when his children were born.

We know, on the other hand, about his friendly relations with prince Yury Vsevolodovich of Vladimir, as a result of which Michael occupied the princely throne in Novgorod the Great three times during the years 1225-1230. We know that with this he incurred the hatred of prince Yaroslav Vsevolodovich (from Pereslavl-Zalesky), who himself wanted to gain a foothold in Novgorod.

We know about Michael's attempt to capture Kyiv (1233), the counteroffensive of the Volyn-Kyiv coalition, the successful defense of Chernihiv against the attackers, the defeat of the Galician-Volyn-Kyiv forces near Torchesk, and – as a result – the capture of Halych throne by Michael (1235). But at the same time, we do not know who remained to rule in Chernihiv!

In 1238, Michael managed to occupy Kyiv, leaving his son Rostislav as prince in Galicia. Once again, we see that the three main principalities of southern Rus' – Chernihiv, Kyiv and Galicia – came under the rule of the Olgovychs, and again for a very short time.

In all the listed political enterprises, a significant, sometimes decisive role of princes from the Olgovychs family was due to the own significant forces of the Chernihiv principality.

All this changed radically with the arrival of the Tatars. In 1239 (the exact date is unknown!) they attacked Chernihiv. Prince Mstislav Glibovych's attempt to repel the attackers turned out to be unsuccessful – his army was defeated in the battle near Chernihiv. We do not know anything about Mstislav's further fate, nor do we know if he had any sons.

At one time, the large family of the Olgovychs was reduced to two people – prince Michael Vsevolodovich and his son Rostislav. They no longer had their own armed

forces and traveled through Hungary, Mazovia, Silesia and Rus' as fugitives, vagabond princes.

Rostislav's attempts to win back the Galician principality ended with his defeat at Yaroslav (1245). Rostislav refused further political struggle in Rus' and took the position of a Hungarian nobleman, son-in-law of King Béla IV.

Michael Vsevolodovich's attempt to regain "power" over Chernihiv at the cost of subordination to Batu turned out to be even worse. Batu ordered Michael to be executed (September 20, 1246), and several other princes related to Chernihiv were also executed. Batu clearly wanted to show that he would not tolerate any prince in Chernihiv.

The same system – to prevent princes from coming to power in ancient capitals and (thereby) reviving ancient Rus' political units – was applied by Batu to the principalities of Pereyaslav, Kyiv and (in a less brutal way) Galicia. Kyiv began to regain its independent political role as the capital of the new state in 1917, while Chernihiv, Pereyaslav and Halych lost their independent political role forever.

Theoretically, one could think that the Rostov princes (Boris or Gleb) will take over the power in the Chernihiv principality – as the grandsons (relatives) of Michael Vsevolodovich. But this did not happen, and we do not even know whether the princes of Rostov made any attempts in this direction. Their descendants automatically lost the right to the Chernihiv throne, since their parents did not rule in Chernihiv.

Despite the fact that all the main sources from the history of the 13th century, mentioned above, continued to tell about the events of the following decades, the Chernihiv dynasty and the Chernihiv principality **simultaneously and unanimously** disappear from their pages. This means the disappearance of the very subject of reference – a political unit centered in Chernihiv.

Talks about "Chernihiv princes of the Tatar era" have no support in historical sources, and they should be considered manifestations of historical and patriotic fiction.

The mythical "sons of prince Michael Vsevolodovich" are not recorded by any source, contemporary events themselves (the middle to the 3rd quarter of the 13th century, when these "sons" could theoretically act – if they existed). All of them, as one, were invented by the authors of Moscow genealogical books, and all genealogies of numerous princely families of the Russian Empire, which derived their origin from these "sons", should be considered mythical in their early part. In fact, they come from self-proclaimed princes of the end of the 13th – 14th century, who had small estates in the upper Desna and upper Oka basins.

"Princes of Chernihiv" from the "List of prince Constantine" (Ljubech synodikon) is also the result of a successful hoax created in Moscow in the middle of the 16th century, using materials from the same genealogical books. In 1654, "List" got to Kyiv and was entered into the Vvedensky synodikon of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, and from it it was transcribed (with omissions and errors) in 1753..1755 into the Ljubech synodikon.

It is not possible to identify any source older than the middle of the 16th century in the text of the List. Thus, all the extravagances of the "List", which do not find independent confirmation, should be considered fictions of the middle of the 16th century.

The attempt of R. V. Zotov (1892) to comment on the "List" and, in particular, to determine the sequence of "Chernihiv princes of the Tatar era" consists of unbridled

fantasies and must be completely rejected. Instead, modern studies should be used, which, in particular, show in detail the instability of Zotov's inventions.

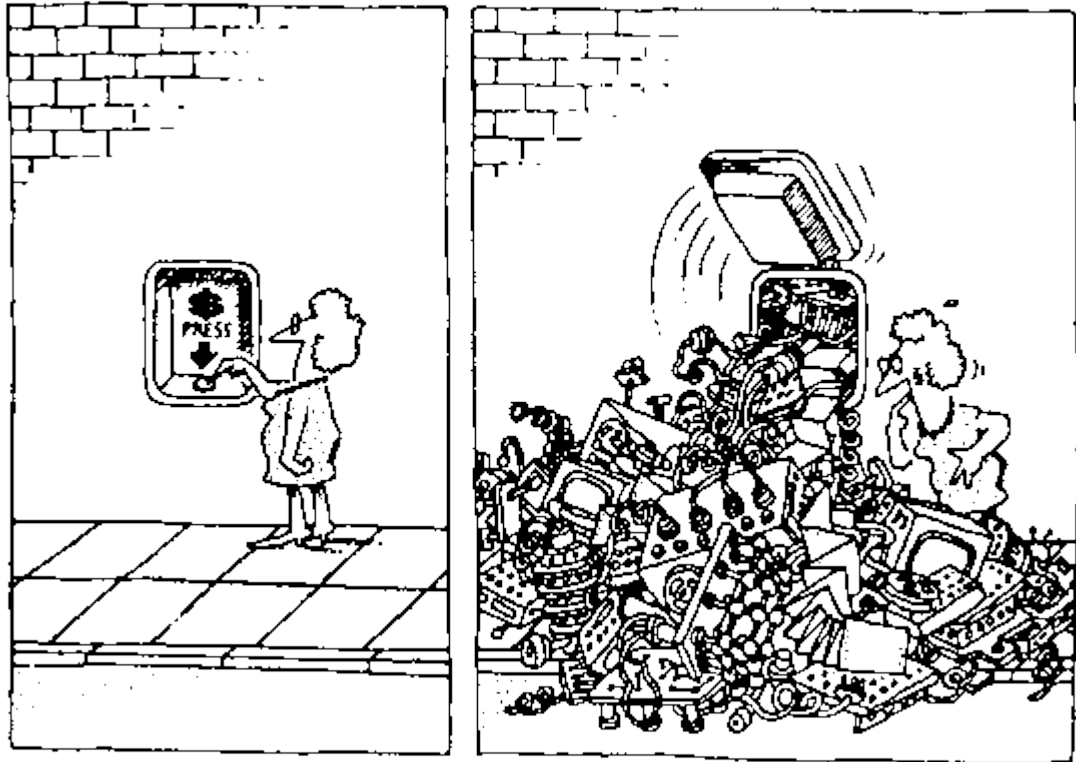
The legacy of the Old Rus' Chernihiv principality manifested itself not in real politics, but in the plane of ideas. Prince Michael Vsevolodovich and his boyar Fedor, killed in the Horde by order of Batu, are glorified as saints in northeastern Rus', later the Muscovite state. Their cult is widespread in Great Russia in the form of literary texts, church services, icons and murals. Since 1580, false "relics" of these saints, "found" by order of Tsar Ivan the Terrible, have been venerated in Moscow. In Ukraine, the cult of these saints did not take root, being limited to one church in Chernihiv itself, built by order of the St. Petersburg church authorities.

The most concise conclusion from the conducted review can be formulated as follows: Chernihiv and the Tatars are things that are incompatible with each other. The Chernihiv principality existed until there were no Tatars. When the Tatars appeared, the Chernihiv principality disappeared.

Scientific basis

The upper sections present a popular (as far as possible) account of the historical fate of the Chernihiv principality. I deliberately did not go into the discussion of debatable issues there (although almost every issue is debatable!), believing that for the vast majority of readers, discussions on subjects they know little about will be boring and incomprehensible.

I like to draw the following picture on various occasions. I think he illustrates our situation very well.



*Software must create **an illusion** of simplicity*

(Figure from the book: Buch G. Object-oriented programming. – Moscow: Concord, 1992, p. 12.)

The popular sections above are a scientific picture of events, in which the various fragments of the broken amphora are logically fitted (well, as far as possible), and the gaps are filled with a neutral restoration background (that is, the minimum necessary assumptions). But if an inquisitive reader wants to know how such a relatively smooth picture was formed and where the author of the beginning of the 21st century learned about the events of the 13th century – you should press the button, as in the picture, and then deal with the whole uncombed mass of source evidence, attempts at their later understanding and explanation, with frank late fabrications that imitate "ancient sources", and with a powerful mass of research fantasies.

All considerations on these topics are transferred to the "technical basement" of the work, which is now revealed to you. The excursions include additional literature on specific, narrow issues and arguments for my views on debatable points (and our topic is such that almost all points are debatable in it...).

At the very end, the section "Historiography" is presented, in which I consider only those works that give a general image of the Chernihiv principality or the place of this principality in the general system of the history of ancient Rus'.

Sources

Let me remind you of an elementary truth: only a text that originates from a contemporary of the event itself can be considered a historical source. The greater the time that separates the event from the record, the less trust in such a source, and when this time exceeds the depth of oral memory (approximately 70-75 years), the text can be considered a late fantasy on the subject of an early event.

Considering the events of the 13th and 14th centuries, we **forced** to use texts written much later than the events themselves, and rewritten even later. There is nothing good in this, but **there is no other way out** for us.

The next problem with the sources is we don't have any single work of Chernihiv origin among the chronicles listed. If you plot the places where the chronicles were written on a map of Eastern Europe as of 1237, the following picture will emerge:



Map diagram of sources for the history of Chernihiv in the 13th century.

The basis of the map scheme was borrowed from [Wikipedia](#).

Primary material

In this section, we will collect extracts from all the mentioned sources and arrange them in chronological order of events. We begin our extracts from the death of the prince [Yaroslav Vsevolodovych](#) (1139 – 1198) – the last grandson of Oleg Svjatoslavych, the progenitor of the Olgovychs family.

In the excerpts, I put [...] in the place of those fragments of the text that do not relate to our topic. These marks can be placed at the beginning of annual article as a sign that the article began with some other (not "our") message, or at the end of a quote – as a sign that another (not "our") episode follows.

Since my extracts from the sources do not have philological or archeographic significance, but only informative and orientational, their spelling is simplified. When simplifying the spelling, it turns out that the texts are closer to the modern Russian language than to modern Ukrainian, so in the extracts I bring them closer to Russian. Knowing the volume of the annals collection and the year, every lover of ancient texts will be able to find them on their own – they are all available on the Internet.

Radziwiłł chronicle (1200-1205)

The text of the Radziwiłł Chronicle ends with the events of 1206. It has preserved in two copies: the oldest (15th century) is contained in the Moscow Academic Chronicle (MAL), the later (1490s) is in an autonomous copy with a large number of miniatures (presumably copies from miniatures from the beginning of the 13th century) [PSRL, 1989, vol. 38]. The MAL list accurately reproduces all the features of the Radziwiłł copy, including the confusion in the latest entries, which caused entries from later years to jump ahead of entries from earlier years.

Chronicler of Pereyaslavl-Suzdal (1200-1212)

"Chronicle of Pereyaslavl-Suzdal" was preserved in two copies – as part of a collection of historical works dated by filigree to the 1460s (Archival copy [PSRL, 1995, vol. 41]) and (partially) in the Nicephorus copy also from the 1460s. March and ultra-March dates are confused in the chronology, so its analysis is the subject of independent studies [N. G. Berezhevskiy Chronology of the Russian Chronicles. – M.: 1963, p. 92 – 96]. Therefore, the date of the last entry is not determined very confidently – 1214, 1215 or even 1216.

Hypatian chronicle (1198 – 1259)

Hypatian chronicle [PSRL, vol. 2; there are several editions] consists of several parts. It is important for us that the Kyiv chronicle ends in 1199 and continues until 1292 with the Galician-Volyn chronicle (GVL), which in turn can be divided into parts devoted mainly to princes Danylo Romanovych, Vasylo Romanovych, and Volodymyr Vasylovich. After the latter's death (1288), the chronicle did not find a patron in any of the representatives of the Volyn dynasty and fell into disrepair, the records of 1289-1292 clearly have the character of additions.

The chronicle reached us in the Hypatian copy, rewritten approx. 1425 year. In it, the Halych-Volyn annals underwent editorial processing, which was not present in the older edition (Khlebnikov copy of the 16th century).

I quote the annals for [translation by L.E. Makhnovets](#) [Annals of Rus. – K.: 1989] – precisely because the text of the Galician-Volyn chronicle is not easy to understand (see in the excerpts how many words the translator had to add to give it at least a little coherence). I am not interested now in the **text** chronicle, but in **events**, about which annalist writes, therefore I consider it appropriate to use the previous work on the text. Of course, in doubtful cases, I do not limit myself to the translation of Makhnovets in search of meaning.

At the beginning of the paragraphs in my excerpts, the dates of the Hypatian copy and their formal translation into modern chronology are set in bold font for orientation in the full text of the annals.

As far as chronology is concerned, the old article by M. S. Hrushevsky remains unsurpassed [[Chronology of the events of the Galician-Volyn chronicle](#). – Proceedings of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, 1901, vol. 41, p. 1 – 72]. L.E. Makhnovets used this article in his comments to the annals, but gave more dates without special justification (abbreviated I give them as "L. M. date"), and only in some cases I give my own chronological considerations. I also note the dates from M. Kotlyar's edition [[Galicia-Volyn chronicle](#). Research, Text. Comment. – K.: Naukova dumka, 2002 – 400 p.] (M. K.) and from the new Polish edition [[Kronika Halicko-Wołyńska](#) (Kronika Romanowiczów). – Kraków, Warszawa: 2017. – 710 p.] (K. R.). M.F. Kotlyar gave an overview of the study of the chronology of the Galician-Volyn chronicle [[To the problem of the chronology of the Galician-Volyn chronicle](#). – Ukraine: cultural heritage, national consciousness, statehood, 2007, vol. 15, p. 73 – 81].

Laurentian chronicle (1200 – 1263)

[Laurentian chronicle](#) (LL) was preserved in a single parchment copy rewritten in 1377 for the Nizhny Novgorod prince Dmitry Kostiantynovich. It is dated to 1304. This glorious chronicle, as well as Hypatian, is an extremely important source for the history of ancient Rus'.

Novgorod 1st chronicle older recension (1200 – 1235)

[Novgorod 1st chronicle older recension](#) (N1LSI) was preserved in a single parchment copy (the so-called Synodal copy). This is the original chronicle, which was rewritten sometime in the 1280s and then systematically continued until 1330. Then, until 1352, there are notes to the main text. This chronicle, like all the oldest chronicles, is an extremely important source for the history of ancient Rus'.

Trinity chronicle (1202 – 1278)

The Trinity chronicle (TL) was written in Moscow and was brought up to the events of 1408. The only parchment copy (probably the original chronicle) burned during the Moscow fire of 1812, only small fragments survived, mainly those that were included in the "History of the Russian State" by N. M. Karamzin. M. D. Pryselkov made an attempt to reconstruct the chronicle from these fragments. This reconstruction was printed in 1950 [*Pryselkov M. D.* [Trinity chronicle](#). Reconstruction of the text. – M.: 1950 – 514 p.].

Rogozhsky chronicler (1203 – 1278)

Rogozhsky chronicler (RogL) [PSRL, 2000, vol. 15] brought to the events of 1411. The only paper copy dates back to a very early time – the 1440s. This chronicle consists of several parts, of which the records of Tver origin for 2-3 quarters 14th century have the greatest source weight. For the period we are interested in, the records of the RogL give a very abbreviated version of the events already known to us.

Simeon chronicle (1199 – 1278)

Simeon chronicle (SymL) [PSRL, 2007, vol. 18] reached us in a single copy of the 1540s. This is an annals of a rather complex composition. In the description of events up to 1411, it is independent, so I prefer to call this part the Simeon 1st chronicle; in the description of the events of 1412-1493, SimL presents a text very close to the Moscow codex of 1492 (MZ1492 [PSRL, 1949, vol. 25]), and is actually one of the important copied of the latter (I prefer to call this part the Simeon 2nd chronicle, Sim2L).

The text of MZ1492 is also used in some places of Sim1L to fill in lacunae. These are records for the years 6743 – 6745, 6747 – 6757, 6869 – 6872, 6909 – 6916 [*Lurie Ya. S. [Simeon chronicle](#)*. – Dictionary of scribes and literature of ancient Rus. – Leningrad: Nauka, 1989, part 2, p. 35].

Sofia 1st chronicle older recension (1203 – 1278)

The Sofia 1st Chronicle older recension (S1LSI) reached us in two copies from the 1480s [PSRL, 2000, vol. 6, no. 1]. This important chronicle was the basis of almost all subsequent chronicles of northeastern Russia in the 15th and 16th centuries.

Moscow academic chronicle (1239 – 1278)

The Moscow academic chronicle (MAL) was preserved in a single copy from the end of the 15th century. It has been established that in the part up to 1206 it contains an accurate copy of the Radziwiłł chronicle (including individual readings). The part from 1205 to 1238 contains the text of the Sofia 1st Chronicle older recension (also including individual readings). The last part (1239 – 1418) contains an original chronicle, presumably of Rostov origin [*Lurie Ya. S. [Moscow academic chronicle](#)*. – Dictionary of scribes and literature of Ancient Rus, Leningrad, 1989, vol. 2, part 2].

This chronicle does not have a separate edition. The last part, which interests us, was printed as an appendix to the Laurentian chronicle [PSRL, 1928, vol. 1, part 3, col. 524 – 540]. The entries in it are very short.

Novgorod Karamzin's chronicle (1204 – 1278)

The Novgorod Karamzin's chronicle (NKL) came down to us in a single copy of the late 15th – early 16th centuries [PSRL, 2002, vol. 42]. It consists of two series of extracts, which should probably be considered preparatory materials for the next chronicle work. According to A. Bobrov's reasoning, the first series of extracts dated to 1411 (NKL1) is primary in relation to S1LSI, while the second series (NKL2) is secondary in relation to S1LSI [*Bobrov A. G. [Novgorod chronicles of the 15th century](#)*. – Spb.: D. Bulanin, 2001]. We are interested in NKL1 itself.

Novgorod 4th chronicle

Novgorod 4th chronicle (N4L [PSRL, 1915-1929, vol. 4]) in its main recension is proved to the year 1446. In the news on our topic, it depends on N1LSI, S1LSI and NKL, so I do not want to rewrite these texts again, but only give links and note the features.

"Avraamka" chronicle (1223 – 1248)

Late Novgorod "Avraamka" chronicle (LA) [PSRL, 1889, vol. 16; 2018, vol. 44], brought to 1469, provides information for the 1st half 13th century in strong reduction, borrowing them mainly from N1LMI, but supplementing from other sources [Abrahamka transcribed part of the codex in which this chronicle is contained, but had nothing to do with the compilation or transcribing of the latter. That's why his name is in quotes]. Therefore, here we see two mentions of the battle on Kalka – once in 6731, and the second time – in 6732. Both stories are drastically shortened, moreover, without understanding the text. This is how the Polovtsian prince Kotyan turned into Akotyan, moreover, the father-in-law of Mstislav of Chernihiv [col. 49]. The LA scribe is not to blame for this error – he borrowed it from ([Kar-16](#)).

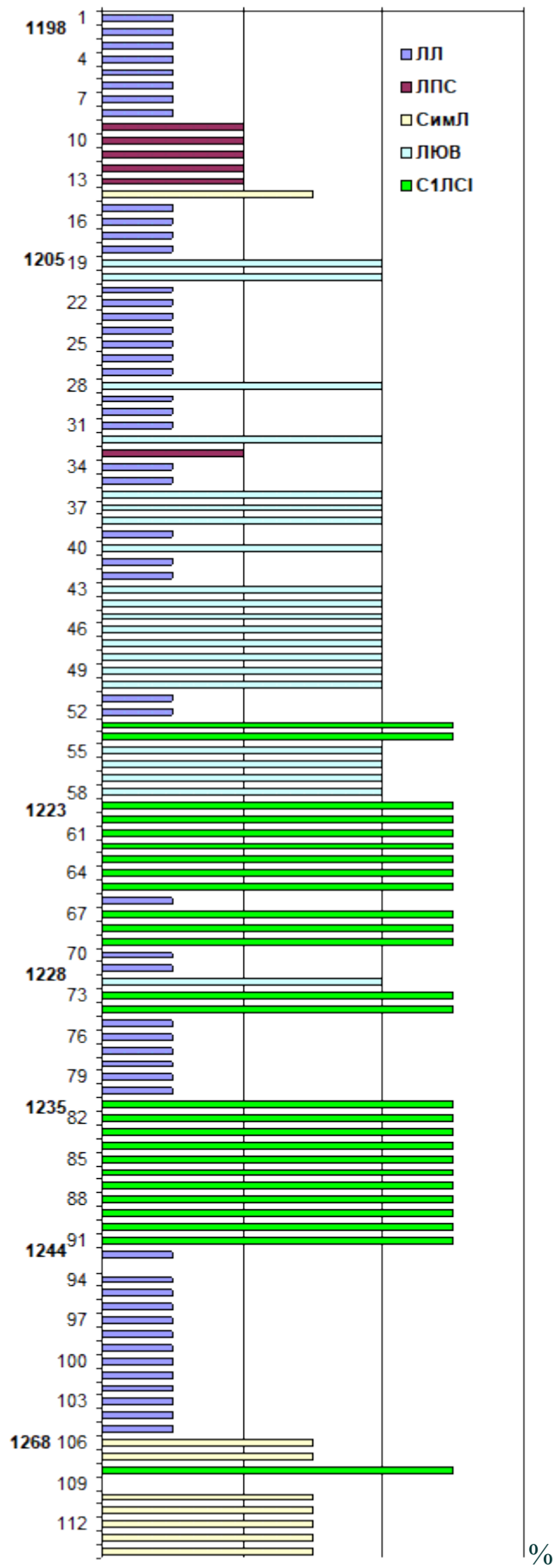
Moscow codex of 1492 (1200 – 1278)

Moscow codex (chronicle archive) of 1492 (MZ1492) [PSRL, 1949, vol. 25] is the most important of the Moscow chronicles of the late 15th century. The main copy of the chronicle – Uvarovsky – was rewritten in the 1st third of the 16th century. The second copy – the Hermitage copy – was rewritten at the end of the 18th century. Each copy has individual defects (omissions of text), which are mutually complemented by the comparison of copies.

Notes

Observations on the text

A comparison of the Moscow codex of 1492 (within the extracts made by me!) with previous annals shows its two main sources: an annals of the Laurentian – Trinity – Simeon type and S1LSI. 65 episodes were taken from the first, 57% (LL – 51, LPS – 6, SimL – 8), from the second – 26 episodes (23%). The share of «Yuri Vsevolovich's chronicle» – 21 episodes – 18%. Episode 109 is of unknown origin, similar in content to the Trinity – Simeon chronicles. Perhaps he was in TL, but did not get to SimL, nor to Karamzin's extracts.



Structure of MZ1492 sources

From the given structure it is clear that the compiler of MZ1492 did not eat his bread in vain and carefully chose from the sources available to him what seemed to him the best and most meaningful.

Ermolin's chronicle (1200 – 1278)

The Ermolin's chronicle (EL) came down to us in a single copy from the late 15th century [PSRL, 1910, vol. 23]. In its main part, it dates back to 1481, and the most interesting are actually the records of the latest events, for which the chronicler was a contemporary.

Nikon's chronicle (1200 – 1278)

Other chronicles of the end of the 15th century: Typographical [PSRL, 1921, vol. 21] and Vologda-Perm [PSRL, 1959, vol. 26], Annals of 72 languages of the older (1497) and younger (1518) recensions [PSRL, 1962, vol. 28] – present the events of the 13th century in great reduction. It is not my task to find out how these abbreviations were formed.

Instead, it is worth looking at how the events of interest to us are presented in a large chronicle compilation of the early 16th century – in the Nikon's chronicle (NikL), which in its older recension (M. Obolensky's copy) is dated to 1520 [PSRL, 1885, vol. 10]. NikL's extravagances against previous chronicle texts are highlighted in **bold**. Episodes that are not in older annals are highlighted in sandy background.

We can see that the text of the excerpts from the Nikon's chronicle is densely filled with bold, even black. But the selected fragments, absent in previous annals, do not carry any new information.

John of Plano Carpini (1246)

From the rather extensive book of John of Plano Carpini I extract what is relevant to our subject.

Chronological table

In the following table, all events mentioned in our sources are summarized in one chronological series. In the "Date" column **bold** fixed dates from the text of the sources are selected, (?) – approximate dates calculated based on the sequence of events are marked.

To clarify the dates, I actively used the book by N. G. Berezhtkov [N. G. Berezhtkov Chronology of the Russian Chronicles. – M.: 1963]. The chronology of the events of the Galician-Volyn chronicle is given mainly according to the notes of L. E. Makhnovets to the translation of the Hypatian codex [Annals of Rus'. – K.: 1989].

In some places, the dates proposed by the researchers seemed contradictory to me. For such events, I put the dates of my own combination, highlighting them sandy background. A significant part of such dates are interpolations between adjacent relatively reliably dated episodes. In more complex cases, comments are provided.

When referring to sources, the years indicated in them are inserted. I also provide these years for the Galician-Volyn chronicle – not to be guided by them, but for orientation in the text of the chronicle.

The chronological date from the creation of the world is placed in the "Main sources" column. If the same date appears in other annals, it is not repeated, but different dates are given.

1198 – 1217

No	Date	Event	Main sources	Special sources
T-1	1198	Death of Yaroslav Vsevolodovich	Ipat-1 (6706)	Radz-1 (6708), LPS-1 (6708), Laur-1 (6708), Sim-1 (6707), MZ1492-1 (6708), EL-1 (6708), Nik-1 (6708)
T-74	1217, August	Mstislav Mstislavich went to conquer Halych	Ipat-21 (6720)	MZ1492-50 (6722, winter), Nik-56 (6722)

1218 – 1240

No	Date	Event	Main sources	Special sources
T-75	1219, October	Rus' and Chernihiv princes are allies of Mstislav Mstislavich	Ipat-22 (6721)	
T-154	1240, summer (?)	Danylo and Vasylo reconciled with Michael: they return him a wife (their sister), promised to give Kyiv (where Michael did not go, fearing the Tatars), gave Lutsk to Rostislav Mykhailovich	Ipat-61 (6746)	

1241 – 1278

No	Date	Event	Main sources	Special sources
T-155	1240, December – 1241, beginning (?)	Having learned about the capture of Kyiv by the Tatars, Michael and Rostislav fled to Poland to Konrad, and then to Germany, where they were robbed	Ipat-62 (6746)	
T-212	1278, December 13	Gleb Vasylovych died during Philip's Lent	Tr-26 (6786, December 13)	Rog-11 , Sim-72 , Sof-35 , MAL-15 , Kar-25 , MZ1492-114 , EL-73 , Nick-148

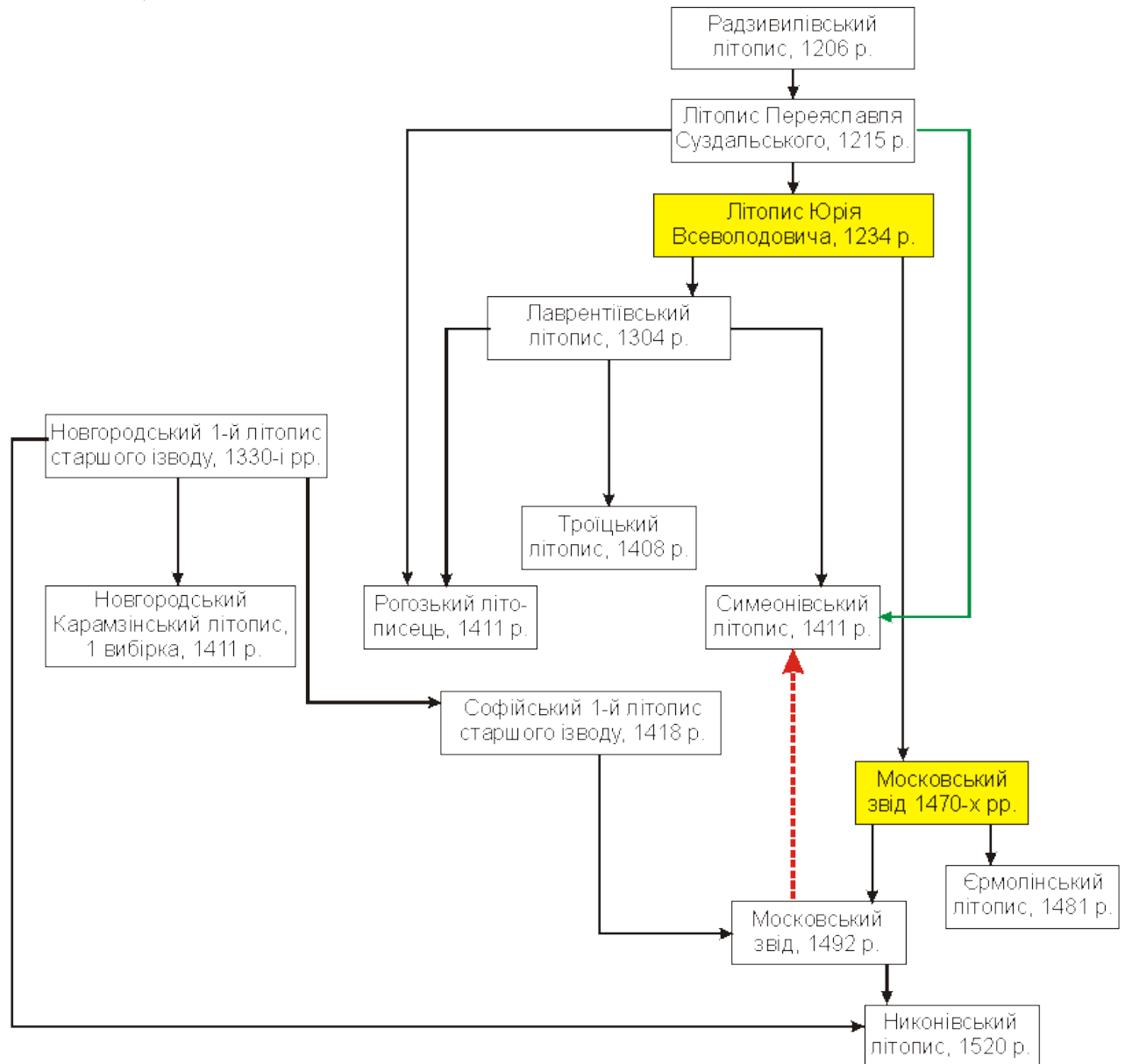
This table contains everything we know about Chernihiv and its princes from 1198 to [mentions of 1331](#). What's more, everything is from the evil one.

Analysis of sources

The messages listed in the table can be considered authentic, coming from ancient sources, relatively (as far as possible) close to the time of the events themselves. Of

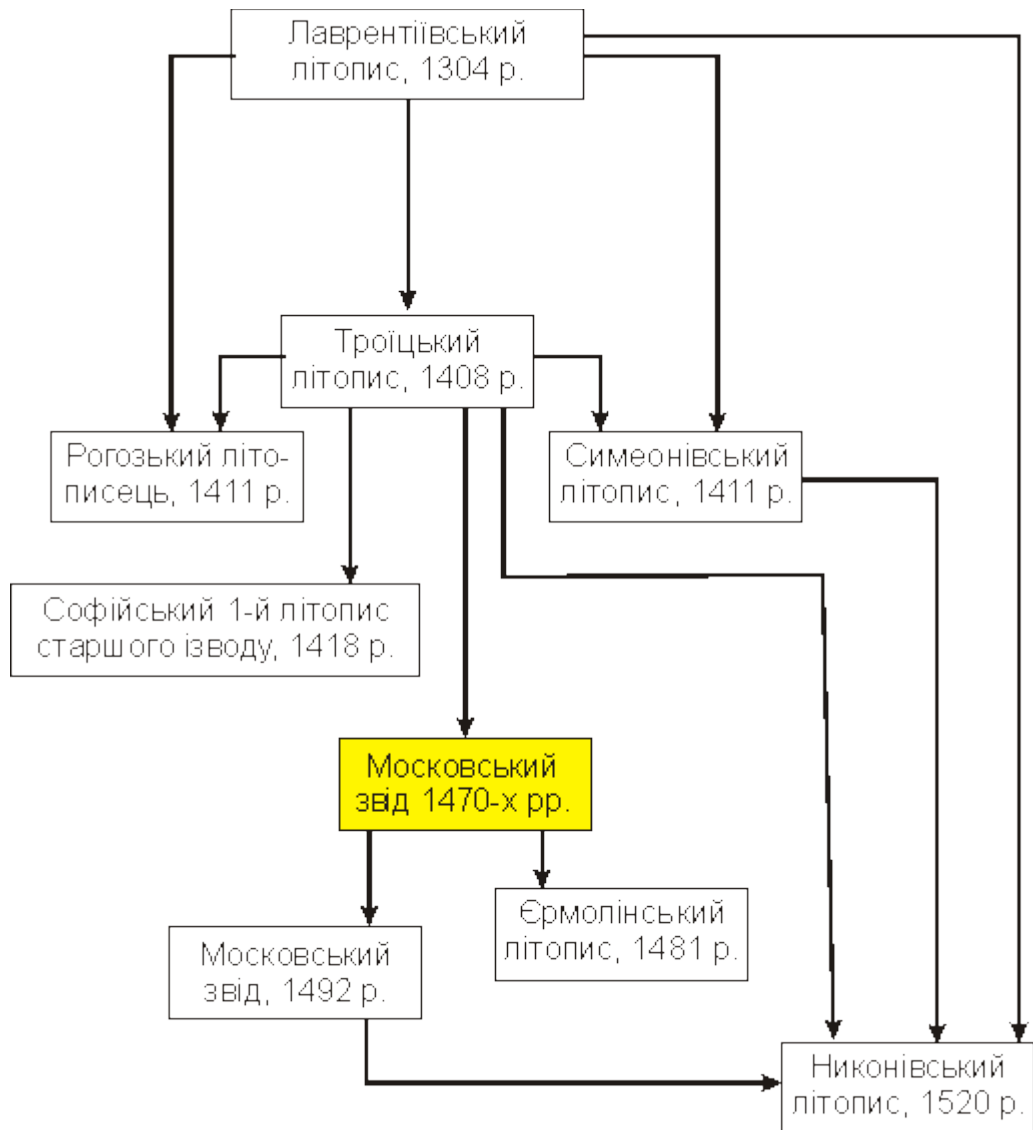
course, this does not mean that they are all competent and truthful. Before using them, we must consider their source value.

We see that the late chronicles (beginning of the 15th century and later) mainly retell the messages of the early chronicles, sometimes shortening them and introducing some mechanical and substantive errors (they are noted in the cited texts and sometimes in the table).



Stemma news about Chernihiv 13th century

Hypothetical protographs: "Chronicle of Yuri Vsevolodovich" and "Moscow codex of the 1470s" are highlighted with a yellow background. They are protographs of EL and MZ1492. The existence of these protographs is practically indisputable.



Stemma news about Boris and Gleb Vasylovichs

When considering these stemmas, it should be remembered: they do not reflect all the textual connections between the chronicles, but only the connections within the framework of the extracts I made.

Chronology of chronicle records also cause a lot of trouble for researchers.

All the news we collected are very clearly divided into two groups:

- **first group** refers to Chernihiv and Chernihiv princes in 1198-1246;
- **second group** concerns Rostov princes Boris and Gleb Vasylovichs (grandsons of prince Michael Vsevolodovich) in 1231-1278.

In the second group, there is no mention of Chernihiv, and the question may arise – why are they needed in this work at all? – It was necessary to find out whether the Chernihiv roots of the Rostov princes influenced their actions (it turned out that it did not).

We have 176 (one hundred and seventy-six) reports about Chernihiv and Chernihiv princes for the years 1198-1246, and 2 (two) for the years 1247-1370 (conditionally). And at the same time, we cannot complain that key sources are interrupted in 1246 – no, all our Rus' sources continue to record further events, only Chernihiv no longer appears in them.

The flow of news about Chernihiv is interrupted not due to a break in the sources, but due to the disappearance of the subject itself – the Chernihiv principality as a component of the ancient Rus' political system.

This is the main result of our review:

1. **The Chernihiv principality was destroyed by the Tatars in 1239-1246 and was never revived again..**
2. All conversations about "Chernihiv princes of the Tatar era" belong to mythology.
3. The destruction of Chernihiv as a political unit caused the disappearance of all Chernihiv literature of the Old Rus' period, including chronicles (assuming its existence).

Additional excursuses

In these excursuses, additional literature on individual points of our topic is considered, special considerations are also presented – historical-geographical, chronological, genealogical. In some places, reasons for my disagreement with the views expressed by other authors are presented.

Some of the relevant issues have been discussed in the literature for so long and so diligently that established points of view have already been outlined. "Discussions" on such issues do not advance our science at all and are very similar to the famous debates between the party of sharp-pointers and the party of blunt-pointers: no one can convince anyone of anything, and the positions on the discussed issues acquire a purely religious meaning, the meaning of symbols of faith.

In such cases, I will simply point out that the question is religious and there is one (blunt-end) belief and another (sharp-end) belief.

Due to the fact that there are very few sources on our topic, and there are many researchers, each episode has been discussed in the literature (starting with N. M. Karamzin) many times. An exhaustive review – who, what and why wrote about each given episode – is not part of my task. I prefer to focus on new literature (mainly from the last 30 years) and then mainly on monographs, turning to individual articles and older monographs only in special cases.

What the studios on the Galician-Volyn chronicle show

This chapter, which I did not plan when starting work in 2018, I am writing during the war between Russia and Ukraine (June 2, 2022 at 8:33 am).

Our valiant army drove the Pushkinists away from Kyiv, and now the war reminds us of itself only by the distant wail of air-raid sirens (for example, today at 5:45). But I always remember [words of our president](#), that Ukraine loses from 60 to 100 soldiers every day in this struggle.

Our boys are dying every day, my friends and acquaintances are risking their lives every day – scientists who went to defend Ukraine. Behind their backs, I, a private of the sofa centuria, can continue my work...

All researchers agree that the Hypatian chronicle consists of several parts. They also agree that the Kyiv chronicle ends in 1199 and continues until 1292 with the Galicia-Volyn chronicle (GVL). There is also agreement that the GVL is divided into "Galician" and "Volyn" parts (although there are disagreements about the boundaries of the parts).

Then a general disagreement begins – everyone with everyone.

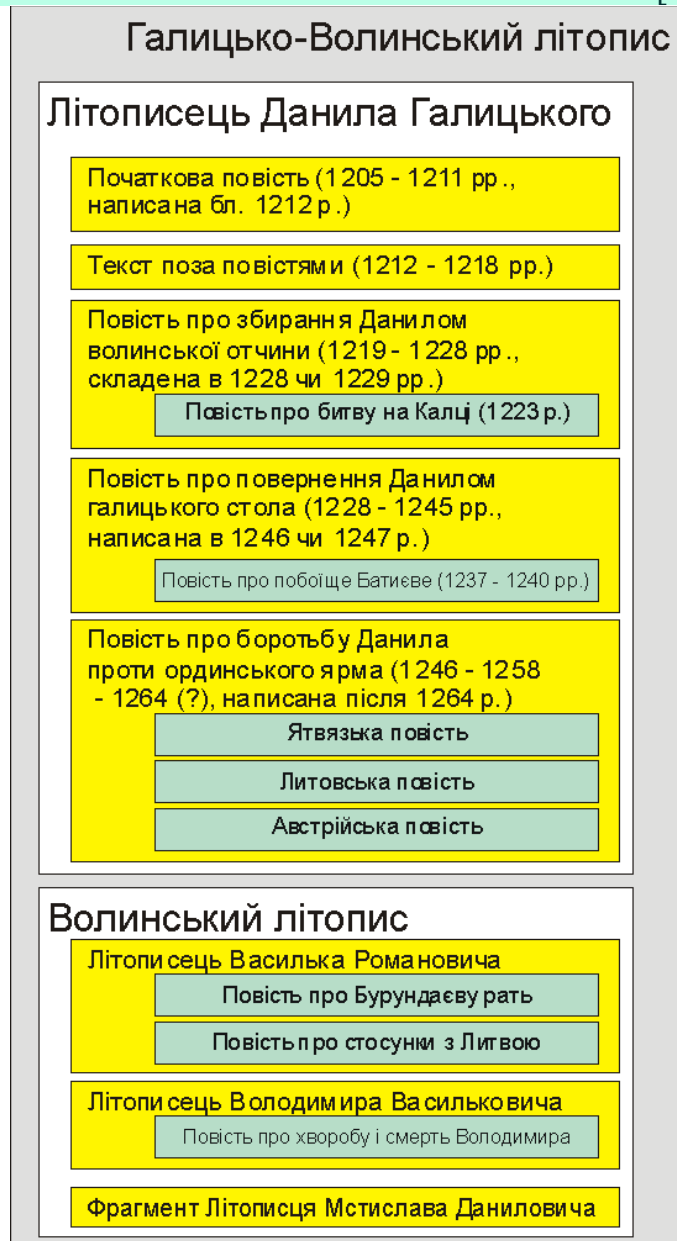
Galician-Volyn chronicle. Research. Text. Commentary (2002)

[Galician-Volyn Chronicle](#). Research. Text. Comment. – K.: Naukova Dumka, 2002. – 400 p.

The work was performed under the direction of Mykola Kotlyar and with his great authorial participation; I will refer to it as GVL-K for short.

The view of Mykola Kotlyar is presented in the introductory article [GVL-K, p. 29 – 59]:

We believe that this source mostly consists of separate stories, combined by later compilers and edited by later editors of the monument. Unsuccessful attempts to regroup the material and connect the stories, futile changes caused by attempts to introduce a chronological sequence into all known copies, significantly changed the original appearance of these stories. In addition, their text is torn by numerous insertions, which must also be attributed to later editorial work [GVL-K, p. 33].



Structure of GVL according to M. Kotlyar

Kronika Halicko-Wołyńska (Kronika Romanowiczów) (2017)

Russians decided to remind the people of Kyiv of their existence and launched a missile attack on Kyiv. I personally heard 4 explosions around 6:00 a.m. on June 5, 2022. [They write](#) – infrastructure was damaged, one person was injured.

Everyone builds the future that seems most appropriate to him. Russians tend to the stone age, and I continue my work (Jun 5, 2022 at 7:55 am).

[Kronika Halicko-Wołyńska](#) (Kronika Romanowiczów). – Kraków, Warszawa: 2017. – 710 s.

The work was carried out under the supervision of Dariusz Dombrowski; I will refer to it as K. R. for short.

The conclusion from the table is very simple: none of the proposed structures has been supported by any other researcher. In simple language, we have subjectivism: each scheme is the personal property of one author, and no one can convince anyone of anything.

As a result, D. D. and A. Yu. give a very high estimate of the source value of X-Rom:

The Galician-Volyn chronicle is an invaluable source, full of information not found anywhere else on the history of Galician-Volyn Rus' in the 13th century, its relations with various states, including Poland, Hungary, Lithuania, and the Czechia [K. R., p. 123].

Galician-Volyn chronicle: textology (2020)

Russian Kutuzov [was killed](#) near Popasna. No, not a field marshal – only a major general. And not Michael Ilarionovych – only Roman. Apparently, the reserves of the Suvorovs in the Russian army had already run out, so the Kutuzovs went on the move. But the positive thing is that the French may not be afraid of Russia from now on.

Well, I continue (June 7, 2022 at 8:05 am).

[Galician-Volyn chronicle: textology](#). – K.: Akadempriodika, 2020 – 929 p.

This large study, carried out under the leadership of Oleksij Tolochko, appeared already during my work on the topic. Here there is no continuous text of the GVL, instead the text is divided into episodes, and each is accompanied by a detailed commentary, often reaching the size of a separate article. These comments are signed by individual authors – participants of the work. Hence the volume – 74 printed sheets (the pure text of the chronicle has about 6 printed sheets). I will abbreviate this edition as GVLT with reference to the author of the particular commentary.

The final conclusion of the study is as follows:

Chronicle writing in Volyn arose after 1264 in the circle of scribes who were under the influence of translated chronographic monuments. It is impossible to determine more precisely the time of the start of work on the chronicle. At the end of the 1280s, this first historical work was continued in the form of the "Volyn" chronicle. After 1292, the "Volyn" chronicle was edited by the same author or his successor. At the same time, this author conducts a systematic reworking of the

"Galician" part, as a result of which GVL finally acquires the image in which it is part of Ipat. codex [GVL, p. 54].

I have already tried to reconstruct how, from a technical point of view, the work on the annals could proceed according to the given scheme [N. I. Zharkikh [What is wrong with the Chronicle of the Romanovychs](#). – K.: 2022] and could not come up with any even slightly suitable, probable hypothesis.

Without repeating what was said in this my article, I will repeat the conclusion: the 929-page indictment appears to me to be hypercritical. If it is accepted, it will be necessary to reject the GVL as a historical source (or at least its entire first part, somewhere before the events of 1245-1250, that is, exactly the one where all the episodes I need are contained).

Conclusions

After reading the introductions to these three books, I felt bitter disappointment. Three authors (teams) studied **the same ancient text**, studied professionally, using the entire arsenal of methods available today, studied for many years – and as a result did not come to any agreement. On every important issue, the opinions of one author differ from those of the other two, no one agrees with anyone on anything, and no one can convince anyone of anything. Subjectivism in its purest form is the summation of 160 years of studies.

If Mykola Kotlyar saw in GVL records made shortly after the events themselves (therefore, of primary source value), the team of authors of the last book simply destroys this source value to nothing: GVL is not the story of a competent person, but a historical novel (at least in that part, which contains the episodes we need), written using several ancient chronographic works. The mass of details that give the GVL concreteness and convincingness are borrowed from these chronographs.

If, based on such conclusions, I reject the GVL records from my consolidated table, then the entire construction of our 13th century history will completely collapse and the very subject of my work will disappear – due to the lack of sources. I do not dare to take such a radical step. I prefer to reject all the latest studies I have read and stick to the old opinion: GVL is a text that is relatively close in time to the described events and is a valuable source, although not flawless.

Already after this chapter was completed, I learned about another monograph on the topic:

Jusupovič A. The chronicle of Halych-Volhynia and historical collections in medieval Rus'. – Leiden: Brill, 2022.

Fortunately for me, the author and Brill Publishers have made sure that the full text of the book is **not available** online, so I can breathe a sigh of relief and ignore this book. I can only repeat after Bulgakov's Master: "Well, haven't I read others?"

Pseudoscience "genealogy"

Against the background of alarming reports of increased attacks by the Rotten-Straw Horde in the southeast of Ukraine, there is also [encouraging message](#), that our troops were recapturing Maryinka (25 km west of the center of Donetsk). Don't let the Donetsk traitors sleep now!

And I will continue as long as I can (April 20, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

Genealogy in our lands has gone through several distinct stages of development.

1. In **Moscow kingdom** 16 – 17 centuries genealogical books were compiled not with a scientific, but with a purely practical purpose.

2. In **Russian Empire** interest in genealogy awakened in mid-19th century.

The general conclusion is that the Russian genealogical tradition has never managed to produce a high-quality scientific reference book, such as that produced by Joseph Wolf [Kniazowie litewsko-ruscy od k.14 w. – Warsaw: 1895].

3. In **the Soviet Union** there was no genealogy: it told everything about princes and lords, and they were exploiters and generally bad people. It was necessary to fight against them, well, and Soviet historians fought as best they could.

4. In the **independent Ukraine** one can observe a certain interest in genealogy in two directions – genealogy of princes (L.V. Vojtovych) and genealogy of cossacks (V.V. Kryvosheya).

As of today, genealogy is not a science, but a field of activity aimed at obtaining undeserved degrees of doctor of historical sciences. It does not contain anything useful for my narrow topic.

Russian princes of the 1st half 13th century

Several of my acquaintances – historians and philologists, candidates and doctors of science – put aside their work and took up weapon in arms, joined the ranks of the Armed Forces and territorial defense. They risk their lives every day, and not as theoretically as I did in Kyiv, but very seriously.

I want to believe that they will be lucky and they will live to see our victory...

I also want to believe that I will be able to find the right words to express my feelings at this time, because all the previous digressions that have sprinkled my work since February 24, 2022, express them only partially...

And for now: the war was going on and my work was going on (June 11, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.).

All princes of the 1st half of the 13th century were agents of anarchy (or ruin, if you like it better). All of them are medium (often even very medium) level actors. Everyone tried to strengthen **his personal** power, disregard that their actions destroys **general concept** of authorities. And this is the decline of the management system and, more broadly, the organization of society.

Prince Mstislavich Mstislavich

Prince Yuriy Vsevolodovych

A new large book is dedicated to this prince:

A. A. Kuznetsov [Prince George Vsevolodovich of Vladimir](#) in the history of Russia in the first third of the 13th century. – Nizhny Novgorod: 2006. – 540 p.

Oddly enough, we do not have a monograph on the Vladimir Prince **Vsevolod Yuriyovich**, although sources for such work are relatively abundant. We also do not have monographs about **Rurik Rostislavich**, **Vsevolod Chermny** and **Yaroslav Vsevolodovych**.

Very [valuable monograph](#) about the prince **Michael Vsevolodovych** written by Martin Dimnik, its review is presented in the "Historiography" section.

Prince Roman Mstislavich

Our shares are growing!

At the beginning of the war, all the analysts of all the countries of the world gave Ukraine **two hours** existence.

Then, when the two hours were over, and Ukraine continued to exist, we were given whole **two days**.

Then two days passed, and they started giving us **two months**, further – all, the end.

And only now, when the fourth month of the war ends and our victory is already outlined, [Dimon Medvedev](#) generously gave to Ukraine **two years**, and after that Ukraine will disappear.

During the war, the assessment of our viability increased 8760 times. Do not miss your chance to buy shares of the incredibly successful company "Ukraine"! (May 16, 2022 at 7:55 am).

The person of Roman attracts a lot of attention of modern researchers, and we have several new monographs about him.

When did Roman rule in Galicia?

Roman's march on Kyiv

The capture of Rurik Rostislavich

"Constitutional project" of Prince Roman

The question of the "constitutional project" of prince Roman Mstislavich belongs to the religious category. The blunt-end sect insists that there is none good project, and the sharp-end sect – that there was such a project.

Roman's princess

I [read](#), that the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine expelled Kilya Azirov and a bunch of Muscovites from its ranks.

I simply cannot imagine what the Academy will do without such an outstanding scientific force!

And on the other hand, I can't imagine what kind of war we would have to start to deprive Legalny Ovoch of the degree of doctor of non-existent (well, economic) sciences?

As long as scientists enjoy clowning, and as long as the ballistic missile that was shot down over Kyiv today at around 7:10 did not hit me, I will continue (June 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.).

Regarding this princess (the second wife of Roman Mstislavich), there is a whole empty literature – who was she by origin and what was her name. **There is no** a mention of her lineage, her marriage to Roman, and even her name in the sources. I think that the constant restraint of ancient Rus' and later chronicles regarding princesses is due to etiquette – the princess was considered the private property of the prince, and outsiders had no to deal with her.

However, regardless of whether such an etiquette requirement existed or not, the fact remains that there are no sources about her origin. Researchers have put forward many guesses, so that it is not even possible to divide them into "sharp ends" and "blunt ends".

Olgovychs in 1203-1207

NATO is rocking even with a delay of 31 years [still going](#) declare Russia a threat to peace and stability. But it has not been announced yet.

So Ukraine continues its righteous war against the Rotten Straw Horde "alone".

Well, I continue my work (June 20, 2022 at 8:05 am).

A new assessment of the role of Chernihiv

Actions of the Olgovychs

Rurik – monk

Chernihiv congress

Olgovychs march to Kyiv

Vsevolod's march to Ryazan

The Galician catastrophe of the Igorovychs (1209 – 1211)

When did all this take place?

How many Igorovychs died?

Article by M. Voloshchuk

Voloshchuk M. [Circumstances of the execution](#) in 1210 Igorovychs of Chernihiv: topical issues of the reconstruction of Rus'-Hungarian relations in the beginning of the 13th century. – Studia slavica et balcanica petropolitana, 2007, No. 1-2, p. 105 – 112.

New studios

So, the new literature on the topic of the execution of the Igorovychs is quite significant, but it does not contribute anything new to the understanding of the subject. Except that in these articles you can find links to other articles on the topic, including the most recent ones.

Chernihiv and the Battle of Kalka (1215-1223)

June 22. A tragic date in our history. On this day, the German civilizers attacked the Soviet Union and brought an incredible amount of grief to Ukraine. And today we meet the 81st anniversary of the beginning of that terrible war in the conditions of the war of the Rotten-Straw Horde against Ukraine, which has been going on for the 119th day.

We have defeated the Germans – we will also defeat the russians. Everything will be Ukraine!

(June 22, 2022 at 8:10 am)

A few small remarks

Where did Mstislav Svjatoslavych reign?

Son of prince Mstislav Svyatoslavich

New works about the Battle of Kalka

Berezhynskyi V. G. [The tragic apotheosis of discord](#) ancient Rus' principalities (the 790th anniversary of the battle on Kalka). – Severshchyna in the history of Ukraine, 2013, vol. 6, p. 136 – 142.

Astaykin A.A. ["It will not be possible to fight against them..."](#): Rus' and Mongols in the campaign and battle at Kalka (April-June 1223). – "Military case of Ulus Juchi and his successors", Astana, 2012, p. 6-37.

Astaykin A.A. [Battle of Kalka](#): the swan song of forged Rus' troops in the steppes. – Filo Ariadne (Lipetsk), 2016, No. 4 – 61 p.

Thus, in the new literature there is a tendency to cancel the battle in one way or another. No one specifically considered the role of the Chernihiv principality in it.

Family circle of Prince Michael Vsevolodovych

[I read](#) with pleasure, that Laptestan celebrated the anniversary of the beginning of the German-Soviet war with a salute. Four Pushkinists died during the explosion of the ammunition depot.

"Do not dig a hole for yourself, because others will fall into it," says the Bible (June 23, 2022 at 8:05 am).

Mother-in-law and wife of prince Michael

Sister of prince Michael

The mythical "second wife" of prince Michael

Oleksandr Zhuravel's special view

In the literature, it is customary to consider prince Michael Vsevolodovich as the son of Vsevolod Chermny. Oleksandr Zhuravel looks at this case differently in his article "On the origin of Michael Vsevolodovych of Chernihiv" [[network publication](#) 2003. This digital publication is a revised version of previous publications from 1995 and 1996]. O. Zh. considers Michael the son of the prince of Trubchevsk [Vsevolod Syjatoslavych](#) (Bui-Tur in the "Tale about Igor's campaign").

Is it really so?

The conclusion, as I tried to show, is not based on anything, it "rests" on late texts, which, moreover, do not speak directly in favor of the view of O. Zh. This view contradicts "Ockam's razor" – not to invent new entities without a special need.

You should also know that S. Kelembet gave a thorough criticism of O. Zhuravel's view [*Kelembet S.* [Michael Vsevolodovych](#), Grand Duke of Chernihiv and Kyiv: some issues of origin, biography and family structure. – Siveryansk Chronicle, 2017, No. 1-2, p. 11 – 13].

The reign of Michael Vsevolodovych in Novgorod

I know about the existence of the article: *Tolochko P. P.* Michael of Chernihiv – prince of Novgorod. – "Great Novgorod and Medieval Rus", Moscow, 2009, p. 236 – 244. It is not on the Internet (searched on May 11, 2022).

A. Gorsky shows the history of the Chernihiv principality after the battle on Kalka quite wrongly.

A. Kuznetsov added a fictional feat to the biography of Michael Vsevolodovych – the capture of south Pereyaslavl.

Oleg of Kursk

P. Golubovsky presented the case of Oleg of Kursk completely mistakenly.

O. Zaitsev submitted his own fantasy on this topic.

M. Dimnik touched on this Oleg twice in the monograph dedicated to Michael Vsevolodovich.

A. Kuznetsov in very vague terms tried to connect the case of Oleg of Kursk with Novgorod the Great.

Thus, Oleg of Kursk is an insurmountable obstacle for researchers who cannot agree on "who he is and where he is from." All speculations about his genealogical position are equally baseless and this position should be considered unknown.

"Lazy war" in Volyn (1228-1229)

The case of prince Rostislav

What are Novgorodians?

What is Kamenets?

View of Martin Dimnik

Mysterious prince Izyaslav

What is this [Izyaslav](#) – researchers cannot agree. The Sofia 1st chronicle, written around 1418, called him "Mstislavich". Here again there was a lack of clarity – which Mstislav was his tentative father? Another hundred years later, the author of the Nikon chronicle called him Mstislavich ⇒ Romanovich ⇒ Rostislavich.

It is clear from this that the authors of late Moscow chronicles were curious (just like us) what kind of "man without a passport" he was. But they did not show competence in this case, there were no sources unknown to us at their disposal (therefore, there are no new details of the event), and these additions should be considered research assumptions.

Researchers on this issue are divided into a sect of blunt-minded people, who consider this Izyaslav Mstislavich, and a sect of sharp-minded people, who consider him Volodymyrovych.

There is no agreement in the sect of blunt-ends on the question of who was father of this Izyaslav – or Mstislav Romanovych, or perhaps Mstislav Mstislavich.

The conclusion (in my opinion) can only be that this Izyaslav joined the company of princes without a family and a genus, in which until now there was only Oleg of Kursk.

One or two Daniil's trips to Kyiv?

O. Tolochko expressed doubts about the reality of Daniil's campaign to help Volodymyr Rurikovich against Michael, considering it a doubling of the story about the campaign of 1234.

The principle proposed by O. Tolochko can be expressed by a formula

$$1 = 0,$$

and in this form its fallibility becomes quite obvious. And this formula is not only a metaphor! Information has a quantitative dimension, and it is studied by such a branch of

mathematics as information theory, and zero in any case means the absence of information.

As for the mentioned campaigns, the critic himself cannot invent motives for doubling the entry, and therefore it is better to leave the text as it is, that is, with two campaigns.

The fierce battle for Chernihiv

There are plenty [message](#) this morning about the massive missile attack on the territory of Ukraine. Our rotten-straw brothers launched rockets both from the Black Sea and from the territory of the Potato Horde, where our other brothers live. How good that Ukraine has only two brotherly nations, not five or twenty!

And against this background, on the 122nd day of the war, I try to focus on the events of ancient times, which resonate so clearly with modern times (June 25, 2022 at 9:10 am).

Text parallel

This fierce battle broke out in the historiography between the blunt-end sect and the sharp-end sect.

The first supports the only correct opinion about the fragment of the description of the siege of Chernihiv by the Tatars in 1239 ([Sof-28](#)) was borrowed to the description of the siege of Chernihiv by Rus' princes in 1235 ([Ipat-37](#)).

The second advocates a completely wrong idea about borrowing in the opposite direction.

Why is the opinion of blunt people correct? The first and foremost thing is that I belong to them.

Sect of the blunt-end

Sect of the sharp-end

Vadim Stavysky's view

If someone thinks that everything written above is an exposition of that fierce historiographical battle for Chernihiv, he is mistaken. And he is wrong because he did not see a real fierce battle, and everything that was higher was a "small sabantui".

Vadim Stavysky showed a real "fierce battle" [*Stavysky V.I. "Fierce battle for Chernihiv". – "Cultural layer. Articles in honor of Gleb Yuriyovich Ivakin", K., 2017, p. 388 – 394*]:

In simple language, IpatL does not give any real details about Chernihiv, and it is logical to assume that the very acquisition of Chernihiv by the Tatars is a fiction of the chronicler, compiled 20..25 years after the events.

Such a "fierce battle" drags already on the "middle sabantui"!

Bolokhov princes

In the case of the Bolokhov princes, researchers are divided into a sect of blunt-end and sharp-end sects.

The sect of blunt-enders defends the only correct opinion, that these princes were self-proclaimed.

The sharp-enders sect maintains the absurd opinion that these princes were Rurikovichs.

Sect of the blunt-end

Sect of the sharp-end

This is how the Bolokhov affair stands today. Through one word *brothers*, as through the famous *filioque*, caused a split among historians.

The war of 1236 in Galicia

The description of this war is given in [Ipat-39](#) – 42. This description contains some geographical mysteries.

What was the Gorodok town?

What was Pidhirya district?

Rostislav's "Lithuanian war" and his escape

[They write](#), that 18 people were killed as a result of yesterday's rocket fire at a shopping center in Kremenchuk.

The new tactic of rotten-straw attacks consists in hitting public centers during the day (like the railway station in Kramatorsk), when one can expect a large number of visitors there and, accordingly, a large number of victims.

And for all of us, this is a reminder that the anti-Dührings from the russian Engels city can strike at any moment in our residential buildings. But I'm still alive, so I continue (June 28, 2022 at 8:06 am).

Myroslav Voloshchuk, devoting a special article to the political relations between Halych and Lithuania, does not doubt the reality of Rostislav's campaign to Lithuania ([T-147](#)), but does not attach any importance to it [*Voloshchuk M. [Galician princes and nobles](#) in relations with Lithuania in the 12th – 14th centuries. – Ukrainian Historical Journal, 2018, No. 4, p. 8*].

The majority of previous researchers also did not doubt this campaign.

Meanwhile, there are more than enough grounds for doubt.

Next we read:

[Rostislav] fled to Hungary along the path taken by Borsukiv dil. And he came to Banja, which is called Rodna, and from there he went to Hungary ([Ipat-48](#)).

The chronicle names two reference points here: Borsukiv Dil and Banja Rodna, followed by Hungary.

All the proposed options are unsatisfactory. If you are already fleeing from Halych to Hungary, then you should do it by the shortest route, through Veretsky or Uzhoksky passes.

Further, *dil* is not a pass, but a mountain massif or ridge surrounded by valleys. *Borsukiv dil* – an array that was once used by a man named Borsuk. Due to the lack of later references, its localization is impossible, it is only clear that it was located somewhere in the Carpathians.

Word *banja* in the Ukrainian language has several meanings, of which we are given "saltworks" [Dictionary of the Ukrainian language / B. Grinchenko, in 4 vols. – K.: Publication of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian SSR, 1958, vol. 1, [p. 27](#); Etymological dictionary of the Ukrainian language. – K.: 1982, p. 136]. Two settlements with this name are known: Banja-Kotivska (now part of the Boryslav city) and Banja-Lysovytska (now defunct, it was located between Morshyn and Lysovychy, near the Stryj city) [History of towns and villages of the Ukrainian SSR. Lviv region. – K.: 1968, p. 99 – 101, 824]. Both objects are located in the Carpathian saltworks area, which stretches somewhere from Sambir to Kalush. The shortest road drawn above passes through this area of saltworks, and somewhere here was the currently unknown Rodna saltworks.

Yaroslav and Michael's princess

Every day there are abundant reports of shelling [Kharkiv](#), [Nikolaev](#), [Sicheslav](#) (The Dnieper, but not the river, only the city. But the Pushkinists are such a people that they are ready to shell the river if they find out that it is Ukrainian).

This game of rotten straw roulette continues every day – hit or miss.

And while it carries me away – I continue (June 29, 2022 at 7:55 am).

On the occasion of the note kidnapping of the princess (wife of Michael Vsevolodovich, [T-151](#)) by prince Yaroslav historians divided into two sects – blunt-enders and sharp-enders (again, I remind you that I am not compiling complete lists of sects, but focusing on new literature).

The blunt-end sect attributes this feat to prince Yaroslav Ingvarovych, the sharp-end sect to prince Yaroslav Vsevolodovich (Vladimirsky). A characteristic feature is that only sharp-enders argue their point of view widely and in detail; blunt-enders do not discuss with these views and do not offer elaborate arguments, they only state their point of view.

I believe that both sects refer to the matter wrongly. My view is at the end.

Sect of witnesses of Yaroslav Ingvarovych (blunt-end)

Sect of witnesses of Yaroslav Vsevolodovich (sharp-end)

Nicholas Zharkikh's view

So, among modern researchers, sharp-end ones decisively prevail in number, but not in terms of argumentation, which looks completely helpless.

Yaroslav Vsevolodovych's trip to Kamianets-on-Sluch (which is 1,100 km from Vladimir-on-Klyazma) was impossible for purely technical reasons, and I see no need to seriously prove this impossibility. Therefore, I suggest reading the following farce on this topic:

Yaroslav and Danylo, or Cherchez la femme

Those who had the patience to read to the end could notice that the whole event is spread over 30 months (27 months between the first and fifth acts + three more months for the relocation of the Volyn ambassadors with Michael's princess from Vladimir-on-Klyazma to Volodymyr in Volyn). It was for the sake of these two and a half years that the farce was written.

The most important reason for the technical impossibility of such a "special military operation", which is attributed to Yaroslav Vsevolodovych, is the impossibility of obtaining accurate information about the location of the subject of the operation – that Michael's princess. There were no transponders on her carts, and there was no space tracking system for vehicles either – so how can such information be obtained?

And meanwhile, without accurate intelligence information, the campaign would turn into a classic "go there – don't know where".

Yaroslav and Danylo or Cherchez la femme A farce in 5 acts Active individuals

Yaroslav Vsevolodovych – prince of Vladimir-on-Klyazma.

Senka – Yaroslav's servant.

Danylo Romanovych – prince of Volodymyr-in-Volyn.

Fedka – Danylo's servant.

Act 1

Summer of 1239. A shack in Vladimir-on-Klyazma with the poorest conditions. Yaroslav is sitting at a rough-hewn table.

Act 2

The same shack after eight months.

Act 3

In another 9 months. Princely palace in Volodymyr-in-Volyn.

Act 4

In another 6 months. The same princely chamber in Volodymyr-in-Volyn.

Act 5

In another 4 months. The same shack in Vladimir-on-Klyazma as in the 1st act.

Tatar ruins

Pushkinists and Lermontoids are continuously firing artillery at Severodonetsk. 2,000 shells per hour, 45,000 shells per day – all to destroy a Ukrainian city with a thoroughly pro-Russian population. Recently, russians obtain a new pastime – to destroy the equally pro-Russian Lysychansk, regardless of losses and expenses.

Everything is clear with the expenses – the money for the production of ammunition has already been spent, and it is impossible to return it, even though you can enjoy the salute. And no one ever worried about the loss of rotting straw cattle.

And so, with a rocket costing 13 million dollars, the anti-Dührings hit the playground, leaving a considerable gap. Well, I was not at that site, so I continue (July 1, 2022 at 8:20 am).

Kyiv throne on the eve of the arrival of the Tatars

Mythical "Chernihiv partial principalities"

Destruction of prince Mstislav Glibovych

Destruction of the siege of Kyiv by the Tatars

Literary defense of Kozelsk

Michael Vsevolodovych's mythical "granddaughter"

Halych and Tatars

They write: The General Prosecutor's Office recorded 11,488 Russian war crimes in Ukraine, of which about 2,500 [in Kyiv region](#).

And this is against the background of the ongoing battle for Donbas.

Under these conditions, I will continue (April 22, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

Igor Ivaskiv published the article "Was Halych captured by the Mongols in 1241?" [Rus in the era of Mongol invasions (1223 – 1480). – Krakow: 2013, p. 70 – 76. This collection is part of the Colloquia russica series, [Series I, Volume 3](#) and has as many as three title-pages, which presents a particular problem for the bibliography]. The essence of the view is clear from the name.

So, the view of I. Ivaskiv is interesting and encourages further **system** of researchs.

But in the book by B. Tomenchuk, which (among others) is referred to by I. Ivaskiv, something else is written about Halych: the fortifications of the princely castle burned down in the middle of the 13th century, and at the same time the wooden wall burned down with the buildings adjacent to it [*Tomenchuk B.* [Archeology of the hillforts](#)

[of the Galician land](#). Galicia-Bukovyna Prykarpattia. Research materials 1976-2006 – Ivano-Frankivsk: 2008, p. 501, 515].

I cannot delve into the question of pure archeology and analyze how is justified the date of the fire. But if we try to interpret the archaeological material, then this fire requires a historical explanation. It is possible that this is not a consequence of the actions of the Tatars, but then what was it? And why were the fortifications not rebuilt after it?

If we move this fire to a slightly earlier time, say, to the beginning of the 13th century, it turns out that during the entire push for Halych it stood destroyed, without fortifications, and the beginning of its decline was not caused by the Tatars, but began earlier. And this would fundamentally change our ideas about the content of the events in Galicia.

The death of prince Michael Vsevolodovych

[They write](#), that the russians dropped phosphorous bombs from Su-30 planes on Zmiiny Island, from which they themselves escaped, and Ukrainian forces did not enter there.

Well, the Persian king Xerxes, in a similar situation, ordered the sea to be carved out. Every historical drama performed by the russians turns into a farce (July 2, 2022 at 7:50 am).

When did it happen?

Anton Gorsky's view

Aleksej Martyniuk's view

Vadim Stavysky's view

I consider A. Maiorov's article "The Secret of the Death of Michael of Chernihiv" (2015) in the section "[Historiography](#)".

Prince Rostislav Mykhailovych

Yesterday, July 3, 2022, our troops retreated from Lysychansk. [They write](#) about the tenfold advantage of russians in people and artillery.

In view of the system I built for evaluating the value of sources, I think that the head of the Luhansk regional administration, Serhii Gaidai, who is directly at the scene of the events and receives the appropriate primary information, should be trusted.

But I believe that we will return. "Even for Baikal, the rejected Horde will ride!" (July 4, 2022 at 7:50 am).

One or two battles between Rostislav and Danylo?

Victory near Yaroslav – whose?

Jura Hardy (2011 – 2019)

[They write](#), that our soldiers destroyed the 64th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade of the Rotten Straw Horde. She distinguished herself by crimes in Bucha (according to Horde concepts, this is the guard), and then she was transferred to the Kharkiv region, where she finally got as much Ukrainian land as she wanted.

Fertilizer for our fields is the enemy guard in Ukrainian. Every day of our righteous war is a "day of reconciliation" with the corpses of the Horde.

So, I can continue (May 8, 2022 at 8:20 am).

Serbian researcher Jura Gardi published an article with an intriguing title [*Hardy J. [The last meeting](#) Danylo Romanovych and Rostislav Mykhailovych. – Princely age: history and culture (Lviv), 2011, vol. 4, p. 193 – 207*].

It should be known that Mr. Hardy is the best contemporary expert on prince Rostislav Mykhailovych and wrote a whole book about him [*Dhura Hardy. Itineraries of Rostislav Mykhailovych. – Sremska Mitrovica-Novy Sad: 2019 – 158 p.*], and S. Kelembet wrote a review of it [*Ruthenica, 2021, vol. 16, p. 189 – 199*]. It seems a bit comical that neither the book itself nor this review are available in full text – and this is in 2022. Such researchers exclude themselves from the process of exchanging scientific information and consider it the norm...

Stepan Temushev's [review](#) [*Journal of the Belarusian State University. History – 2020, No. 3, p. 102 – 105*] is available. It shows that the actual itinerary covers p. 123 – 126, and the rest of the book is a biography of the prince.

As usual, I wanted to wish that this book would be translated into Ukrainian, if Ukrainian researchers are not able to write something of equal value themselves. But then I remembered that Serbia sent its "volunteers" to fight on the side of Russia against Ukraine in Donbas in 2014, and in 2022, Serbia systematically supports Russia's criminal aggressive war against Ukraine.

And do not say that J. Hardy is not guilty of this. **Just guilty!** He is a citizen of his country, and just in the course of the war, on April 3, 2022, in the next presidential election, the Serbs re-elected the well-known rusophil Oleksandr Vucic. In this way, citizens of Serbia expressed their support for Russian aggression.

We will win in our righteous war, but we will not forget those who helped the aggressor. So, I hope, there will never be scientific cooperation between Ukraine and Serbia.

Viktor Mandziak (2011)

While I am sitting in relatively safe Kyiv, and the frigate "Admiral Makarov" is in an unknown place and in an unknown condition – our soldiers [destroyed](#) the Russian Serna with two Tors on board.

And on the Black Sea, the Lermontoids from the Rotten Straw Horde had only two such landing craft (well, now one remains). And the Horde had about 120 Tor anti-aircraft missile systems before the war, so there is still plenty of work for our Bayraktars.

Well, for now I will continue (May 7, 2022 at 8:15 am).

A very weak article by Viktor Mandziak is devoted to the person of prince Rostislav [*Mandziak V. [Rostislav Mykhailovych](#) – "dux galiciae et imperator bulgarorum". – Princely age: history and culture (Lviv), 2011, vol. 5, p. 131 – 143].*

In general, V. Mandziak's article corresponds well to the level of student course work. The author demonstrated knowledge of the literature on the topic, the ability to present the material competently and coherently (and in modern Ukraine, where candidates and doctors of science make two spelling mistakes in one word, this is quite a qualification!). A positive feature – the author did not invent his own fantasies.

The shortcoming of the work is a blind faith in the incredible fantasies expressed in the literature, and a complete lack of a critical approach to what is read. However, one should not demand more from the course work.

What was the point of publishing this article – I do not understand. Did the "Knyazha Doba" (Princely age) collection set itself the goal of surpassing the "Murzilka" magazine?

Mythical "sons" of prince Michael Vsevolodovych

D. Bagalij gave complete faith to the "sons" of Michael Vsevolodovych from the genealogical books.

Yu. V. Seleznev's dissertation [[Russian princes](#) in the political system of the Juchi ulus (Hordes). – Voronezh: 2014] contain a separate section "Features of the stay at the court of the Horde Khan of the princes of the Chernihiv and Turov-Pinsk lands in the 13th century – at the beginning of the 14th century." (p. 243 – 253). The use of "synodikons" (actually, books by R. Zotov) destroys the meaning of the author's genealogical considerations.

V. M. Rychka and O. P. Tolochko spoke categorically against the possibility of self-proclamation of the princes.

A. Gorsky writes completely wrongly... The author's trust in Zotov destroys all trust in what A. Gorsky wrote.

Mythical "Chernihiv princes" from "List of prince Constantine"

Muscovites remembered that somewhere in the world there is the Kyiv city, and somewhere they have missiles capable of reaching it. They were in such a hurry that they didn't even wait for the dead of night, when rocket attacks from Moscow usually take place, and fired soon after it got dark.

And all in order to have time while UN Secretary General A. Guterres was in Kyiv. So to speak, to remind themselves.

They are strange, these Muscovites, for God's sake. They could have hit Guterres on this with their missiles, or even grenade launchers, when he was in Moscow – and wasted such an opportunity!

Meanwhile, in Kyiv – no joke. [They write](#), which damaged a 25-story building, injured 10 people...

As long as the house I live in is intact, I will continue (April 29, 2022 at 7:50 am).

Maybe some of the readers will be interested – why is it that the Chernihiv princes from the Ljubech synodikon, who appear in all histories of the Chernihiv region, in all genealogies and in all encyclopedias, are not mentioned anywhere in my history.

I answer: it is because I am writing a history of the events of the 13th century, and I do not touch on late fantasies on the themes of this history.

What will follow in this section is a concentrate of my previous studies: articles "[Synodikon of Ljubech](#)", "[List of princes in Ljubech Synodikon](#)" (2015), monograph "[From ruler to monk: history of the custom](#)" (2015), "[Vvedensky synodikon](#)" (2018) and the review article "[Source value of the synodikons](#)" (2018). All of them have been published for a long time and are easily available on the Internet, and each has its own "Conclusions" section. It is everywhere small in volume and can be read to have a general idea of the subject.

Posthumous trials of Michael and Fedor

Church in Rostov (4th quarter of the 13th century)

Immediately after the death of prince Michael Vsevolodovich and boyar Fedor in 1246, the theory arose that they died because of their Christian faith.

The expression "church name after him" can be understood both narrowly – as "the church of St. Michael, prince of Chernihiv", and more broadly – as "the church of Archangel Michael" (the same name that prince of Chernihiv).

Further, we have a mention of this church in the late Nikon Chronicle: "That same year [6796 = 1288] in Rostov, the church St. Michael burned down due to the thunder, on the 14th day of the month June." [PSRL, 1885, vol. 10, p. 167].

Tales of Michael and Fedor (late 13th – 17th centuries)

The next stage of the commemoration of Michael and Fedor is represented by the sprawling "Tale", to which I dedicated the [separate work](#). This story was written at the end of the 13th century based on the records of the Laurentian and Hypatian annals. Since these records did not provide material for a full-fledged life, a shortened version was written, which in hagiography is called "suffering" (a life focused exclusively on the saint's martyrdom). The Bible and the lives of ancient saints served as additional materials here.

Iconography (from the early 16th century)

A large interesting article is devoted to this topic [*A. S. Preobrazhensky* [Michael Vsevolodovich](#). – Orthodox Encyclopedia, 2017, vol. 45]. If we set aside its first paragraph, which deals with purely hypothetical early (until the end of the 15th century) iconography, the rest provides thorough data on the topic, with a large bibliography.

False "transfer" of the fake "relics" (1579-1580)

Searching for the remains of saints with the "Tale" in their hands should cover the territory of Eastern Europe (at least Eastern Europe!).

But the tsars differ from normal people in that they do not see any obstacles to their desires. It is only necessary to give the appropriate order – and everything will be as written.

And the tsar gave such an order – for some reason to the Chernihiv voivode – and the "relics" were transferred to Moscow.

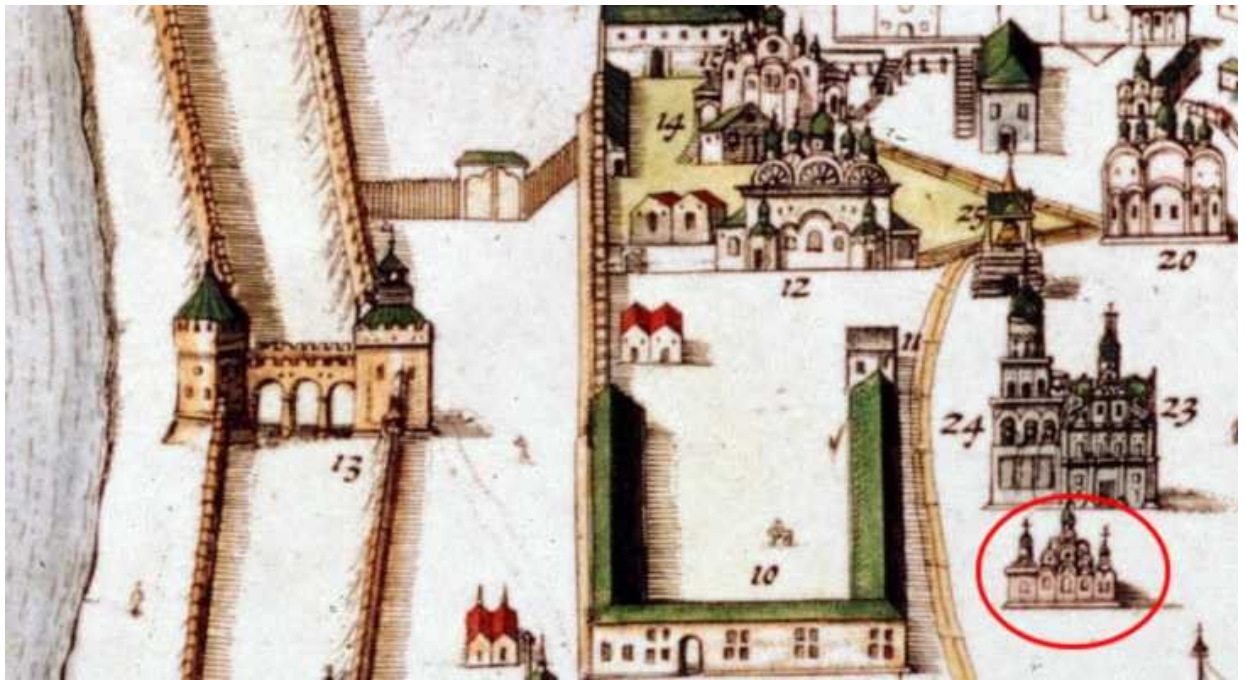
Annals of the cathedral in the Moscow Kremlin (late 16th century – 1770)

The next episode of trials was the placing of "relics" in the special cathedral of Chernihiv miracle makers in the Moscow Kremlin. Placing the temple in the very center of power emphasized the significance of the new shrine. What do we know about it?

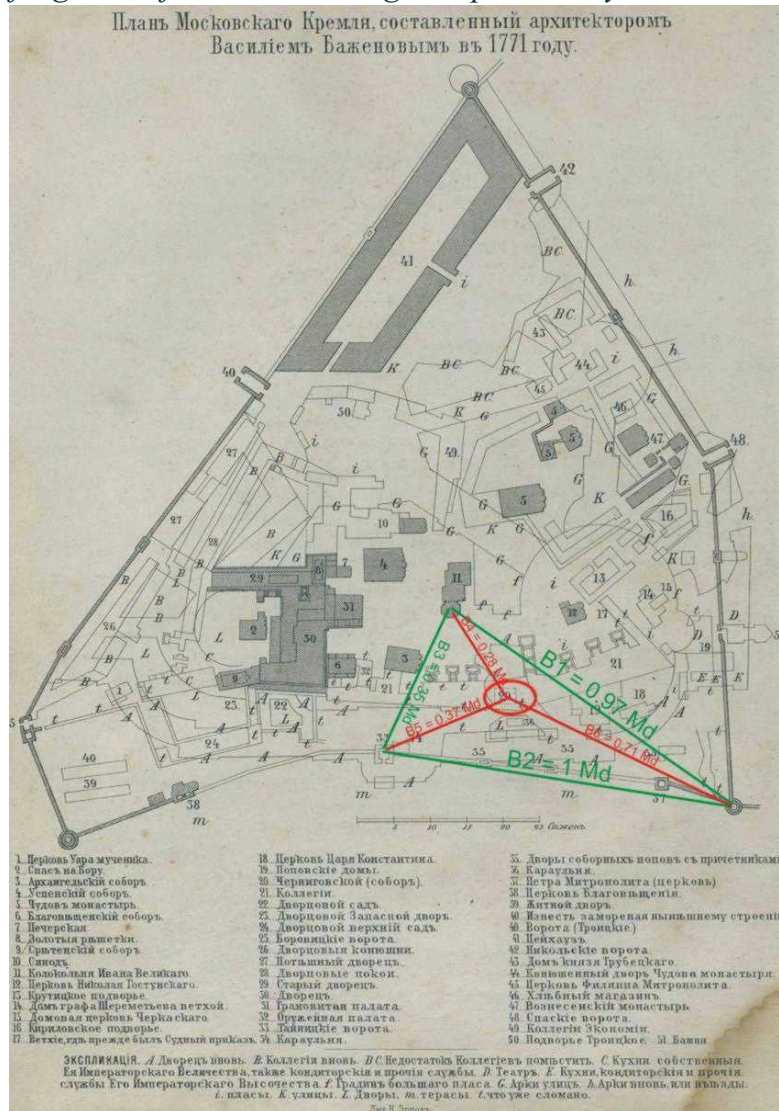
This repair, the end of which Skvortsov dated to 1764 [*Skvortsov N. A. Archeology and topography of Moscow*, p. 192], turned out to be the last in the history of "our" cathedral.

Topography of the cathedral in the Moscow Kremlin (late 16th century – 1770)

Where was the cathedral of Chernihiv miracle makers, which has not been preserved to this day?



A fragment of the "Kremlenograd" plan, early 17th century



Kremlin plan of 1771

In 1771, the empress Catherine, who personally oversaw the project of the reconstruction of the Kremlin and its implementation, ordered the demolition of part of the southern defensive wall of the Kremlin, the building of colleges and the Chernihiv Cathedral (the plan we are considering records these objects as already demolished).

Church beyond the Moskow river (from the beginning of the 17th century)

About this church with the original name "Church of the Meeting of Prince Michael of Chernihiv" we have references from 7133 [= 1624 – 1625] year.

From the above extracts it is clear that it was an ordinary parish church. It has preserved to this day and is located in [Chernihiv lane, 3](#).

With the demolition of the Kremlin Cathedral of Miracle makers, this episode of veneration ended, and the church in question no longer has a unique name *the meeting of the relics of Michael and Fedor*, but has a completely standard name *Saints Michael and Fedor*. A church with that name could stand anywhere.

The new shrine of 1774

The new stage of trials lasted until 1774. On October 6, 1774, G. M. Teplov wrote to the bishop [Samuel](#) (Myslavsky, 1731 – 1796, the future Metropolitan of Kyiv):

Her imperial majesty, the inscription to the shrine of the relics of St. Michael, prince of Chernihiv, which you wrote, deigned to test with only a small exception against your writing... The second two, that is, the life and sufferings of this pious prince, as in the prayer, she ordered to be exactly as you wrote them [*Skvortsov N. A. Archive...*, vol. 1, p. 17].

What was this shrine?

Its description in 1774 was submitted by A. Lebedev.



*The image of St. Prince Michael on the cover of the shrine, 1774.
Photo from [website of the Museums of the Moscow Kremlin](#)*

It seemed that placing the "relics" in the Archangel Cathedral next to the tombs of the Moscow rulers protected them from further trials. But it did not turn out as expected, and trials continued with renewed vigor.

The new shrine of 1817

New trials of ancient saints and their false "relics" began in 1812, when French civilizers occupied Moscow.

Even though the "relics" of 1579 were of the newest formation, it turns out, they have not preserved, and now we have the "relics" version 2.0, from the beginning of the 19th century in the cathedral? No one wanted to write about this circumstance – neither about the loss of the relic, nor about its miraculous rescue during the invasion of Western civilizations.

One way or another, the Russian Empire could not exist without "scraps". Therefore, in this case, it was decided not to spread the loss of "relics" all over the world: mundus vult decipi, ergo decipiatur – the world wants to be deceived, let it be deceived.

In 1817, a new shrine was produced, and it's description was submitted by A. Lebedev.



Shrine of 1817 for the "relics" of St. Michael
 Photo from [website of the Museums of the Moscow Kremlin](http://www.museums.moscow.ru/)

Painting by Vasyl Smirnov (1883)



Smirnov V. [Michael of Chernihiv](#)

The painting by the Great-Russian artist Vasyl Smirnov (1858 – 1890) "Holy pious prince Michael of Chernihiv in the Horde in front of the khan Batu" (1883) is based on the "Tale". It was his graduation work at the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts, which brought him a large gold medal, the title of class artist of the 1st degree and the right to a 4-year trip to Europe. The painting itself went to the "Russian Museum" in St. Petersburg, and in 1932 it was transferred to the Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow. In a word, the picture was a complete success. Is it really that remarkable?

However, we do not have a better picture for this plot, no one has yet dared to compete with Smirnov. I also consider it appropriate to compare this painting with the painting by Boris Johanson "[Interrogation of communists](#)" (1933).

The latest trials

After the end of the trials with the shrine of 1817, the cult of Saints Michael and Theodore continued to enrich little by little.

Information about temples named after Michael and Fedor built in 19 – early 20th century collected by A. Preobrazhensky.

All the facts of the trials (or, what is the same, church veneration) of Michael and Fedor concerned exclusively the territory of Great Russia. No cult of these saints existed in Ukraine until 1691.

The church in Chernihiv was and remains the only church in Ukraine in the name of Michael and Fedor. Therefore, even now this cult is not popular in Ukraine, remaining mainly Moscow (Great-Russian).

Late legends about the prince Michael Vsevolodovych

Walking along the embankment near the Gogol monument, I often hear the bell that comes from the right bank of the Dnieper, from the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra. It is the Gundoslavs of the Moscow Satanate who are calling on their god to destroy Ukraine and help the russians to kill as many Ukrainians as possible.

Well, if god had listened the shepherd, the whole flock would have sighed. But the Gundoslav god is in no hurry, and more than 36 thousand Pushkinists have already been exterminated (July 5, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

These late legends lie somewhat apart from the main line of the posthumous trials of prince Michael Vsevolodovych, so I separate them into a separate section. The legends are presented in the approximate order of the time of their occurrence, from the earliest to the latest.

Michael's miraculous healing

Michael Vsevolodovych – the founder St. Saviour cathedral in Chernihiv

Michael – the prince of Pereyaslav

Feodulia / Euphrosyne – mythical "daughter" of Michael Vsevolodovych

Historiography

In this section, I will consider only monographs that cover the entire topic I have chosen. Articles devoted to special issues are considered in excursions in connection with these issues.

I do not consider (mostly) works that have a wider territorial and / or chronological range. I believe that generalizing works are based on special studies at the regional level and therefore depend on the latter.

To facilitate the orientation of the reader, I will highlight correct statements with a green background, a false (in my opinion) – with a yellow background.

Early stage (1881 – 1906)

Peter Golubovsky (1881)

Dmytro Bagalij (1881)

Review by Ivan Linnichenko (1883)

Echoes of explosions are heard from the right bank of the Dnieper, but very far away (I am writing on February 26, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.). Yesterday, when the Muscovites broke through to Pechersk, it sounded much louder. "Is there fate or misfortune – and you, Moshka, play..."

In the same year 1857, another Ukrainian historian was born – Ivan Linnichenko (1857 – 1926). He graduated from the same Kyiv University and was a student of the same professor V. B. Antonovych.

In 1883, he published a review of the books of Golubovsky and Bagalij in the "Journal of the Ministry of National Education" [[part 227](#), department of criticism and bibliography, p. 164 – 203]. In it, he praised Golubovsky's book (pp. 164-169) and gave a very negative assessment of Bagalij's book (pp. 169-203).

Rafail Zotov (1892)

While the curfew continues in Kyiv (until 8:00 on February 28, 2022) and echoes of explosions are heard from the right bank of the Dnieper (already usual), but very far away – I continue to write (February 27, 2022 at 8:30).

Naval lieutenant colonel Rafail Zotov (1848 – 1893), about whom there is still no biographical information, published his "study" of the Ljubech synodikon in 1892 [*Zotov R. V. [About Chernihiv princes](#)* according to the Ljubech synodikon and about the Chernihiv principality in Tatar times. – Spb.: 1892 – 327 p.].

This book had fatal consequences for the scientific study of the history of Chernihiv region. Absolutely everyone fantasies (without exception!) by R. Z. were accepted by absolutely all later authors (not only amateurs, but also professional historians, starting with M. S. Hrushevsky) in full – without the slightest reservations.

Gennady Vlasiev (1906)

Thunder killed cancer.

A completely peaceful Russian Tu-22 bomber flew over brotherly Belarus and thought to himself: "Why am I carrying this evil load of cruise missiles with me? Shouldn't we release them to brotherly Kyiv?"

And released. One rocket [shot down](#), and its fragments [hit](#) in the yard of residential buildings in Troeshchyna, 4 cars were burned.

I personally heard a series of three powerful explosions between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. (this is all on February 27, 2022, and I am writing at 10:30 a.m.) – perhaps one of them was from Troeshchyna.

Troeshchyna is a huge sleeping area in which, by definition, there cannot be anything military. But it doesn't matter to a high-precision Russian bastard. Well, belarussian "friends" did not give up. They have a referendum there today. I don't know what question they asked there, but we already have the answer – absolutely clear. I hope that there are street lamps in Minsk on which...

Another official of the Russian Navy, Lieutenant General of the Admiralty Gennady Vlasiev (1844 – 1912) lived longer than Zotov and saw the destruction of the Russian fleet in the war with Japan, in particular, in the Battle of Tsushima (1905). I am sincerely happy for Japan (which these days introduced sanctions against Russia), and for "Death of the squadron", and for Vlasiev personally (because he was the head of the Obukhov plant, where armor, turrets and guns for Russian ships were manufactured) – he too contributed to Japan's victory.

Having retired in 1905, in 1906 he published a large book "[Descendants of Rurik](#)", the first volume of which (in three issues) is dedicated to the Chernihiv princes.

Arsenij Nasonov (1934)

The Russian historian and archeographer Arsenij Nasonov (1898 – 1965) from 1924 developed the topic of Tatar policy towards Rus'. The book was finished in 1934, printed in 1940. [*A. N. Nasonov* [Mongols and Rus'](#). – M.-Leningrad: 1940. – 179 p.] and in 1941, A. N. defended his candidate's thesis on this topic.

So, A. N. came quite close to the conclusion that the policy of the Tatars towards Rus' consisted in the destruction of the South Russian principalities, in particular, Chernihiv, but he never dared to do it.

Volodymyr Mavrodin (1940)

The Soviet historian Volodymyr Mavrodin (1908-1987) read all the books I reviewed above and found that "this literature is very insignificant and cannot satisfy us" [*Mavrodin V. V. Essays on the history of left-bank Ukraine: from ancient times to the 2nd half 14th century* – Leningrad: Goslenizdat, 1940 – 320 p.; I use the reprint: St. Petersburg: Nauka, 2002 – 417 p., in which an afterword by A. Yu. Dvornychenko (b. 1957) "V. V. Mavrodin – historian of Ancient Rus'" placed; quote – on p. 5; it is natural that V. M. did not use A. Nasonov's book, which was published in the same year 1940].

And I am writing all this in Kyiv on March 2, 2022 (at 10:30 am – just in case. I am not panicking, but I am aware that every key I press may be the last in my life). We do not hear guests from the newest "fighters against nationalism" today, but yesterday (March 1, 2022) the ideological partisans of Comrade V.V. Mavrodin fired cruise missiles at Kharkiv, [there are numerous victims](#). Therefore, the destruction of "Ukrainian nationalists" is progressing both ideologically and technically.

See you at the Kharkiv Tribunal, dear "Russian brothers"!

Well, I didn't have time to finish this chapter yesterday (March 2, 2022). And at night there was an attack on Kyiv – I heard it perfectly. Since the General Staff [asks not to publish details](#) – I will only say that the "liberators" did force me to turn to the other side.

So, let's continue (March 3, 2022, 8:56 a.m.):

In the harem called "Soviet Humanitarian Science", Mavrodin was the senior overseer of Princess History. The princess did not escape from this inexorable guard, but our eunuch could not have fun with her, let alone beget offspring (in the form of new concepts). Naturally, he hated History – so close and so inaccessible...

Aleksej Zaitsev (1975-1976)

I am writing this on March 4, 2022, against the background of reports about [shelling of Zaporizhzhia NPP](#) by Muscovites, that is, on the first day of the world nuclear war.

There's no way, I have to do my work – I won't have any other time for creativity.

The next researcher who paid much attention to the Chernihiv principality was a Russian historian [Aleksej Konstantinovich Zaitsev](#) (1939 – 2009).

So, the merit of A. Zaitsev is keeping the fire burning on the altar of research of the Chernihiv principality. His historical and geographical observations are undoubtedly useful, in particular the dictionary of toponyms of the Chernihiv principality added to the dissertation.

Martin Dimnik (1979 – 2014)

Canadian historian Martin Dimnik (1941 – 2020) was born in Ljubljana (modern Slovenia). After earning a doctorate (1976), he taught at the University of Toronto and worked for a long time at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto.

M. D. was a historian of one topic – the majority of his works are devoted to the history of ancient Rus' of the 1st half 13th century, and especially for the Chernihiv principality. His first article was published in 1979, the last in 2014 (maybe I missed something). Sometimes they say about people who write one book all their life – this is quite close to M. D. It is natural that later publications partially repeat the previous ones, with some clarifications.

"Michael, prince of Chernihiv" (1981)

Dimnik M. [Michael, prince of Chernihiv](#) and grand prince of Kyiv: 1224 – 1246. – Toronto: 1981. – 16, 199 p.

This is the first one (after M. Ivanchyn-Pysarev's long-outdated brochure [*Ivanchyn-Pysarev N. [Michael, Grand Duke](#) Kyiv-Chernihiv and his boyar Feodor. – Moscow: 1839*]) a separate book dedicated to one of the leading figures of the 1st half of the 13th century. Either Soviet or modern Ukrainian science cannot produce such a monograph, nor to translate the book by M. D. In the preface it is stated that the book was defended as a dissertation in 1976, and the preface itself is dated December 1978.

In modern (after 1991) Ukrainian and Russian historiography, this book had a strange fate: it was often mentioned, but almost never quoted or discussed – as if there were no controversial provisions in it. This is explained very simply – no one (or almost no one) has read this book.

There is an operational pause in the war and there are no major changes on the fronts. That's in Bucha (it's 30 km from my house) [buried](#) 67 local civilians killed by Muscovites...

And you, Moshka, play (March 13, 2022 at 8:15 a.m.)...

M. D. right noted the uniqueness of the situation with this enthronement – earlier and later the Vladimir princes tried not to let Novgorod out of their hands [p. 19]. The same right M. D. explained Michael's subsequent refusal from the Novgorod throne (T-91) by the fact that Michael was focused on the Chernihiv throne [p. 22].

March 14, 2022 at 5:09 am [a Russian shell hit](#) in a residential building on the street Bogatyrskaya (this is Obolon in Kyiv), two dead...

But as long as I can continue – I will continue (14.03.2022 at 8:50)...

The same as in case of J. Fennell, we have purely cyclical logic: why did the Smolensk princes own Kyiv? – Because they have reached the peak of power. And how can it be seen that they have reached the top? – But from the fact that they owned Kyiv!

[They inform](#): On March 13, 2022, Russian "liberators" shot our scientist-physicist Vasyl Kladko in Vorzel near Kyiv. He tried to take his family out...

He was 65 years old (like me) and he was a corresponding member of NASU, deputy director of the Institute of Semiconductor Physics. I did not have the honor of being acquainted with him, but in the now distant years of 1977-1978, I did my thesis at this institute...

And so against this background – I continue (March 15, 2022 at 7:55).

Examining the situation that developed after the capture of Halych by Michael, M.D. suggested that Danylo, seeking help against the growing power of Michael, resorted to an alliance with Vladimir prince Yury Vsevolodovich, and as a result of their agreement, Kyiv was handed over to prince Yaroslav Vsevolodovich [p. 80 – 81]. But

where can it be seen? – Actually, out of nowhere, M. D. refers to the marriage of Vasylo Romanovych with the daughter of Yuri, concluded back in 1226, but about **agreement** the sources are silent, also about Kyiv. I consider this an assumption groundless.

They inform: Ukrainian aviation destroyed the military helicopters of the Russian occupiers, which were stationed at the temporarily captured airport near Kherson.

A trifle (confirmed destruction of 3 helicopters and several vehicles), but how nice! Muscovites wanted our land – eat!

So, I continue (March 16, 2022 at 7:45).

Having brought the story about Michael to 1243, in the next chapter – "Michael in Galicia" – M.D. had to return to 1235 [p. 95].

They write, that on March 17, 2022, on the 22nd day of the war, at 5:02 a.m., fragments of a downed cruise missile hit a residential building in the Darnytsky district in Kyiv, killing at least one person.

Since the house where I live has survived so far (March 17, 2022 at 8:15 a.m.) – I continue...

And then I'm already reading pure fantasy:

Consequently, the boyar Dobroslav Sud'ich assumed the role of prince. In his new capacity he distributed Galician territory to the boyars of Chernihiv rather than to the boyars of Galicia, thus strengthening the Ol'govichi faction in southwest Rus' [p. 115].

What kind of Chernihiv boyars? History does not know **none** Chernihiv boyars for the entire 13th century! Why mislead an English-speaking reader who does not know the primary sources?

M. D.'s general conclusion from the entire book: historians underestimated the political weight of Michael and the Olgovychs in the first half of the 13th century [p. 136] – sounds quite true.

So, in general, Martin Dimnik's book about prince Michael Vsevolodovych deserves a high rating. Despite the individual shortcomings noted above, the author managed to draw an accurate political portrait of Michael against the background of the history of Rus' in the 1st half 13th century, to refute some erroneous views of the predecessors and emphasize the important role of the Olgovychs family at this time.

It is no less important that the book was written in simple, easy-to-understand English (reads without any problems) and conveyed to the English-speaking reader a great deal of knowledge about the history of Rus'. Neither the Soviet nor the post-Soviet historical science managed to produce such a monograph, did not even manage to translate Dimnik's finished book.

As a result, this book was often mentioned in literature lists, but no one had ever read it, and even Nicholas Zharkikh himself was in no hurry to read it – until the Muscovites started firing their rockets at Kyiv and I realized that I couldn't delay any longer. The account of my comments – 25 (40%) provisions by M. D. were noted as correct, 38 (60%) – as erroneous or doubtful. Of course, I paid more attention to what

I did not like, passing without comment the majority of the places with which I can agree.

Nowadays, after writing my work, I believe that M. D.'s book is outdated and remains a fact of historiography. But someone else has to write this historiography.

"The dynasty of Chernihiv" (2003)

Dimnik M. [The Dynasty of Chernihiv](#), 1146 – 1246. – Cambridge University Press, 2003. – 437 p.

22 years after the book discussed above, M. D. again turned to the history of the Chernihiv principality. This book is the second part of his work (the first, published in 1994, was devoted to the Chernihiv dynasty of 1054-1146).

Looked in [news](#): this morning (March 18, 2022) the Russian occupiers shelled Kyiv again. A residential quarter in the Podilsky district was hit.

And I continue my offensive on the part of the invisible front of the ideological struggle chosen by me (March 18, 2022 at 9:15 a.m.)...

The preface contains an overview of the sources. M. D. mistakenly thought that spring in the annals began on March 8, summer on June 9, autumn on September 10, and winter on December 9 [p. 16].

Finally – the expected counterattack! On the Irpin direction Muscovites [were rejected from Kyiv](#) for 70 km.

Of course, this does not affect the probability that the house I live in will be hit by a Russian missile. Whatever that probability was, it remains so. But this is empty, the main thing is that our army grinds the enemy's onslaught!

So, let's continue (March 19, 2022 at 8:20 am)...

Among the Soviet researchers, M. D. mentioned A. Nasonov and A. Zaitsev (but not V. Mavrodin!) [p. 3]. I also read and evaluated them – therefore, I did not miss anything important.

Today (March 20, 2022) it is clear and relatively quiet in Kyiv, there were only a couple of explosions (it seems that our anti-aircraft defense was working), instead we had to [read](#) about the terrible event that happened on March 11: in Kreminna, Russian "liberators" shot a house for the elderly from a tank, 56 people killed!

I am not a humanist and not a philanthropist, I think that those old lonely people were all for "Putin led" and "Putin helped". And so they received "help", after which nothing else is needed.

However, I am not angry, I think that their martyrdom crossed out all (possible) their sins and emphasized their suffering. I want to believe that 56 martyrs of Kreminna, 67 martyrs of Bucha, and 10 martyrs of Chernihiv will be commemorated in Ukraine...

I want the reader to imagine the circumstances in which the following lines were written.

On the p. 243 – 246 M. D. analyzed in sufficient details the attack on Kyiv in 1203 (T-9).

[They write](#): On March 20, 2022, at around 10:48 p.m., a rocket of Russian aggressors hit a shopping center in the Podilsky district in Kyiv, killing eight people.
Ordinary news from the time of the siege of Kyiv... I can still continue (March 21, 2022 at 8:40 am).

The next subsection is called "**An unsuccessful attempt by Vsevolod Chernmy and Rurik to seize Halych**". On the occasion of Roman of Halych's death M. D. right noted that Danylo had no hereditary rights to Halych, but could hope to sit on his father's throne. However, this right did not deter his rivals [p. 251].

That Chernihiv, which I am writing about now, which I have visited many times, whose sights I know well and love – it is currently under constant fire from the Rotten Straw Horde, which set out to repeat the feat of the Tatars in 1239 and wipe out the city on gunpowder.
Mayor Vladyslav Atroshenko [writes](#) (March 22, 2022) that more than half of the residents left the city. They are fleeing from Horde shells, among which there are such that four men can barely lift them. Fleeing to Europe – exactly as during the invasion of Batu.
At the same time, Atroshenko [writes](#) that Ukrainian forces are in full control of the city. Everything will be Ukraine! We will win!
And I will continue as long as I can (March 22, 2022 at 8:07 am).

While developing the topic of the Ryazan-Chernihiv conspiracy, M. D. mentioned the unknown sister of Vsevolod Chernmy, who was the wife of prince Roman of Ryazan. Sources? – Of course, there are references to Baumgarten (20th century) and Zotov (19th century) [p. 251]. I think this one late fantasy not needed at all.

In Chernihiv, the Russians are targeting hospitals – [reports](#) Mayor of Chernihiv Vladyslav Atroshenko (March 23, 2022 at 7:43).
The Rotten Straw Horde can't do much beyond that. And I continue because I can do it...

The next subsection is called "**The hangings**". Teaching Vladyslav Kormylch's campaign speech in front of Przemyśl, M. D. a little exaggerated, writing that among the accusations against the Igorovychs was "giving their patrimonies to outsiders from the **Chernihiv lands**" [p. 270]. This "Chernihiv" origin of the new owners is superfluous, the chronicler of the Romanovychs knew only about "foreigners". And there were no foreigners from Hungary or Volyn?

[They write](#): for yesterday (i.e. March 23, 2022) 7 Russian planes were destroyed. A trifle – but nice!
And I continue (March 24, 2022 at 8:40 am).

The next subsection is called "**Assessment of Vsevolod's rule**". I can to agree from M. D. in the fact that Vsevolod was one of the most successful senior princes of his dynasty [p. 280].

I think that a large part of the general description of Vsevolod given by M.D. can be included in encyclopedias.

This morning in Kyiv seemed surprisingly quiet. One air alarm around 23:00 on March 24, 2022 does not count.

But I always remember – Russian war criminals are constantly shelling Mariupol, Izyum, Kharkiv, Okhtyrka, Trostyanets, Sumy, Chernihiv... Behind the backs of the defenders of these cities, I enjoy relative peace in Kyiv.

Therefore, I continue (March 25, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

The next subsection is called "**Mstislav Svjatoslavych – senior prince**". "He became famous for the fact that he became a victim of a Tatar spear," began M. D. [p. 291]. I don't know if M. D. read A. I. Herzen's "Past and thoughts", but the latter also mentions "generals glorified by victories over them"!

From yesterday's news: Muscovites tried to advance near Irpin. Let me remind you that it is about 30 km from the house where I live. The attack was (expectedly) repulsed.

And behind the broad backs of our soldiers who bear losses in these battles – I can continue (March 26, 2022 at 9:05 am).

The 4th chapter is devoted to the sixth generation of the Chernihiv dynasty. Its first subdivision is called "**Michael becomes Yuriy's agent in Novgorod**".

[Dramatic photos](#) Mariupol burned by the Russian invaders is our pain, and the same [photo](#) from Trostianets, liberated by our troops, is our hope!

So, I continue (March 27, 2022 at 9:10 am).

The next subsection is called "**Michael and Vladimir of Kiev at odds with Daniil of Volyn'**".

This morning (March 28, 2022 at 7:45 AM) I woke up alive and in my usual comfort. I do not forget for a moment that my life is paid for by the death of our soldiers in the fight against the Russian aggressors.

But our soldiers save not only me from Muscovites – they also save fat pigs on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, who are unable to defend themselves.

An extremely nasty type of these pigs are "professors" and "scientists" who sip their coffee and seriously think about "Ukrainian Nazism" in general and about Nicholas Zharkikh as a representative of this "Ukrainian Nazism". Of course, I don't owe anything and I generously send to them my [informational napalm](#).

But now I am not talking about that. I know who is who and what is what in this world, but they do not know and live in

illusions. Stupidity and incompetence, inability to sober analysis cannot be concentrated in only one area of evaluations of the current policy, but extend to all areas of "activity" of these pigs. Such are and will be their "scientific works". Therefore, what I write is science, and what they write is an imitation of science or simply commissioned materials.

So, continuing...

Mention that Michael returned to Chernihiv "to his brothers" ([T-104](#)) gave M. D. the tributary to list these "brothers": Mstislav Glibovich, Vasylo of Kozelsk (!), Oleg Svyatoslavich of Novgorod-Siversky, Izyaslav Volodymyrovych of Putivl, Svyatoslav of Trubchevsk and the nameless Kursk prince of the 1228 model [p. 315]. None of those named was Michael's brother, and Vasyl (not Vasylo!) of Kozelsk, if he existed at all, was not born yet. Therefore, the expression of the annals "returned to my brothers" should be understood as "returned to himself, to his homeland" – and only that. The entire list is based on assumptions and only misleads.

The next subsection is called "Michael captures Kyiv".

[Harvest day](#) for our Armed Forces: on March 28, the Armed Forces shot down 17 aerial targets.

I keep remembering: I can go on (March 29, 2022 at 8:14 am) because our defenders keep dying!

M. D. again returned to the hypothetical treaty of Michael with the Hungarian king, which I already touched on above, and here he detailed its conditions. At a guess M. D., they included permission for the Hungarians to rule in Halych, help for the king in restraining Danylo from capturing Halych, Michael himself refusing to take Halych, but did not touch on the situation in Kyiv [p. 326]. All this is pure guesswork without relying on sources.

Yesterday (March 29, 2022) there was disinformation about the "withdrawal of Russian troops from Kyiv", today already [refuted](#) our General Staff. Well, I heard this "withdrawal" just from my room – all day and half of the night in the northwest (Irpın direction) our artillery rumbled powerfully.

As long as our Armed Forces do not drive the Russian troops to hell, there will be no success.

So, I continue (March 30, 2022 at 8:40 am).

The next subsection is called "**Michael seeks sanctuary in Kamenets**".

M. D. in vain trusted the Pskov chronicle with its date of the fall of Pereyasavl [p. 347].

But then it got even worse. M. D. envisioned the case in such a way that Michael, shortly after the fall of Pereyasavl, fled with his family to the heavily fortified Kamenets... and so on [p. 348]. More details this fantasy I consider in [a special excursion](#).

This entire subsection is completely wrong, which is not characteristic of M. D.

I heard with my own ears the promised "withdrawal" of troops from Kyiv by Moscow – yesterday (this is March 30, 2022),

cannonade thundered all day in the northwest, in the direction of Irpin. The only reliable direction of retreating the invaders is into the ground.

And while there is an opportunity, I will continue (March 31, 2022 at 8:10 am).

The next subsection is called "**Rostislav fights for control of Galicia**".

Here again repeated failed fantasy from the 1981 book about Chernihiv boyars who received estates in Galicia [p. 361], the "salt trade" also moved from there [p. 362].

Yesterday (March 31, 2022), our troops knocked out the Russian invaders from several villages in the Kyiv and Kherson regions. There is still a long way to complete liberation of Ukraine, but the first steps are already being taken!

So, I can continue (April 1, 2022 at 9:00 AM).

The next subsection is called "**Michael's family**". Initial thesis – false and does not portend anything right:

The Tatar invasion sounded the death knell for the political fortunes of the Ol'govichi, but it did not eradicate the dynasty [p. 374].

Of course, all further "analysis" of news about these mythical "sons" is completely wrong [p. 376 – 380].

With the general conclusion of M. D. it is possible totally agree: during 12 – 1 half 13th century Chernihiv princes were one of the most important dynasties [p. 392]

I spared no space and attention for excerpts, because I was interested in every statement of Martin Dimnik. The plan of his work is very similar to the plan of my work – and this is due to the available sources on the topic.

In general, M. D.'s book deserves a high rating, because it gives the English-speaking reader a certain idea about a part of the history of ancient Rus', which is little known to such a reader. If we talk about the general contours of events, they are presented correctly in M. D.'s book, and some of his statements can be useful for our historians as well.

One of the important advantages of the book is simple and clear English, which is read without any complications.

At the same time, some of the subsections give a completely false coverage of individual plots of the topic, and the subsections, which present a generally correct picture, contain many controversial or downright erroneous points. These points are not visible to the average reader, but they are visible to me, since I myself analyzed the primary sources.

In total, 36 (25%) of the 145 ratings I placed are positive, 109 (75%) – negative. I will repeat again – this does not mean that the book is bad, because I do not stop on each correct position separately, but it means that there are also many controversial ones.

A translation of this book into Ukrainian could have been useful if it had been done immediately after the publication of the English version. Now, after writing my work, such a translation is not needed – M. D.'s book is completely outdated.

Articles

In addition to the two books discussed above, Martin Dimnik published a number of articles about Chernihiv princes of the 13th century. Some of them preceded the 1981 book as preparatory work for the monograph.

(1) *Dimnik M.* [Struggle for control over Kyiv](#) in 1235 and 1236. – Canadian slavonic papers (Toronto), 1979, v. 21, No. 1, p. 28-44.

I commented on some other provisions of this article in the excursuses.

(2) *Dimnik M.* [The siege of Chernihiv in 1235](#). – Mediaeval studies (Toronto), 1979, v. 41, p. 387-403.

The article on this site is paid access, so I could not use it.

(3) *Dimnik M.* Kamenec. – Russia mediaevalis (Munich), 1979, vol. 4, p. 25-34.

I have to regret it again – this article on a very interesting topic for me is not available on the Internet.

(4) *Dimnik M.* The Place of Rurik Rostislavich's Death: Kyiv or Chernihiv? – Medieval Studies, 1982, vol. 44, No. 1, p. 371 – 393.

I know about the existence of such an article, and it is interesting to me. But it is not on the Internet, so I cannot read it and say something.

"Academic historians" will say: why didn't Nicholas Zharkikh take advantage of standard academic opportunities, didn't get a grant for his work, didn't go to Munich, where the mentioned magazine is probably located, etc.

I answer (on March 11, 2022 at 7:50 a.m., while the echoes of explosions are not heard in my Kyiv apartment): 1, I do not belong to the academic community of historians; 2, I don't care about any grants; 3, I remember about Covid-19 – no one canceled it, they just stopped talking about it; 4, I remember the Muscovites who approached Kyiv and dream of capturing it; 5, I remember the curfew and the impossibility of getting not just to Munich, but even to the National Library on Demyivska Square. The list can be continued.

The next series of articles was published after the publication of the monograph in 2003, so it is possible to see whether there have been changes in the views of the author.

(5) *Dimnik M.* [The demise of Igor's sons](#) (1206 – 1211). – Severshchyna in the history of Ukraine, 2010, vol. 3, p. 102 – 111.

I am reading this article in the background [messages](#) (as of April 2, 2022) on the complete liberation of the Kyiv region from the Russian invaders. The descendants of Andriy Bogolyubsky did not succeed in repeating his feat.

But the Russian aggressors captured Izyum, [80% destroyed](#). The road to our final victory is still long and difficult.

Therefore, I am obliged to continue my offensive on the selected section of the front of the struggle of ideas (April 3, 2022 at 8:55).

In this article, M. D. refused of his statement in 2003, that the older branch of Olgovychs had dynastic rights to Halych. Now M. D. asserted even more – that even the younger branch did not have such rights, and only the participation in the campaign of 1206 of the Kyiv prince Rurik gave legitimacy to the coalition's claims to Halych – because Ryurik as grand prince of Kyiv had the right to appropriate the lands of an extinct dynasty [p. 103].

Photos and videos from the massacre in Bucha horrified the whole world. Only Russia does not recognize the fact of these war crimes, and its loyal ally Germany sings: "And we don't care!"

But this massacre was **planned** – this is the implementation of the plan of "denazification" of Ukraine, which was announced by Russia from the very beginning of the war.

Without real denazification of what will remain in place of Russia after the war, there will be no peace. So, I continue (April 4, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.)

The considerations – why Volodymyr Igorovych fled to Putivl in 1207, and not to Novgorod-Siversky [p. 105] – remained unchanged compared to 2003. In the same form, based on Tatishchev, the description of the reign of Rostislav Rurikovich in Galicia and the death of Rurik in 1208 remained [p. 106].

So, the article in question is essentially an abbreviated summary of the relevant sections of the 2003 book, with very minor differences.

(6) *Dimnik M.* The daughters and sons of prince Michael Vsevolodovich of Chernihiv (1179 – 1246). – *Severshchyna in the history of Ukraine*, 2012, vol. 5, p. 107 – 111.

The summary of the article does not promise anything good:

According to the sparse information that is available concerning the offspring of Prince Michael Vsevolodovich of Chernihiv (1179 – 1246), he had two daughters and five sons. The daughters moved to Suzdalia where the elder one became a nun in Suzdal and the younger one lived as the princess of Rostov. Of the five sons, the eldest, Rostislav, deserted his father after the Tatar invasion and entered the service of the Hungarian king. The four younger sons Roman, Mstislav, Simeon, and Yury ruled domains in the Chernihiv lands as vassals of the Tatars [p. 107].

The whole article completely wrong and uncritically repeats late fictions of the 15th – 19th centuries. This is the worst thing I have ever read by M. Dimnik. There would be no harm if this article did not exist at all.

(7) *Dimnik M.* The struggle for Halych between Daniil Romanovych and Michael Vsevolodovich (1235-1245). – *Rossica antiqua*, 2013, No. 1, p. 55-103.

The article has a note: This is an updated version of a chapter from the 1981 book. [p. 95 – 129]. What is new here besides the language?

Thus, the "updating" consisted in superficially suppressing the previous text with references to one Russian author, whose opinions, however, did not influence M. Dimnik in any way.

(8) *Dimnik M.* Daniil of Halych, Michael of Chernihiv and the Tatars: the struggle for the Galician land in 1239-1245. – *Rusyn*, 2014, No. 1, p. 17 – 35.

This is another publication of the same article (translated from English by the same V. G. Ananiev, who translated the previous article). The scientific apparatus is enriched with references to articles by the same A. Maiorov in the same magazine with the paradoxical name "Rusyn", which the Moscow agency publishes in Chisinau. Thank God, nothing new!

So, M. Dimnik's late articles, published after his 2003 monograph, do not add anything new to the interpretation of the topic, except for errors.

Conclusions

Martin Dimnik definitely has the first place among all the authors who wrote about the Chernihiv principality. His books are the most valuable of everything written on this topic – both in terms of volume and thoroughness of treatment of the topic. He has a number of successful reconstructions of the course of events.

The merit of M. Dimnik is all the greater because he did not belong to the Chernihiv region either by his birth or place of education and work. He fell in love with this land from a distance and was able to visit it only after the fall of the evil empire (USSR).

But the region did not love its historian. None of the numerous universities of Chernihiv region invited Dimnik to teach history. Local historians, unable to write the history of the Chernihiv principality on their own, did not even bother to translate his books. (Nowadays, after writing my work, I consider these translations to be outdated. Their time has passed.)

Paying full respect to M. Dimnik, it should be noted that his works were written in **pre-scientific level**. The uncritical use of late texts on a par with primary sources, complete trust in the fantasies of Tatishchev, Zotov and Baumgarten cannot be acceptable in modern science.

Another unfortunate discovery concerns the methodology of historical research. Once upon a time, in the 1990s, Ukrainian historians expressed the hope that progress in the study of history would be conditioned by the familiarization of our scientists with the new achievements of world historical science. Such hopes were expressed due to ignorance of these achievements.

Now, after reading the books of the Canadian researcher, which are actually part of these achievements of world science, I see that in terms of research methods, not a single step was taken in them compared to how Volodymyr Antonovych taught his students 140 years ago and how they wrote their diploma theses of his students in 1881. We still have the same healthy positivism in Dimnik that we saw in Golubovsky and Bagalij, we have the use of some sources printed after 1881, but there is nothing new in terms of methods.

John Fennell (1983 – 1987)

The British historian John Fennell (1918 – 1992) was a Slavologist by profession and in 1983 he published the book "The Crisis of Medieval Russia 1200 – 1304" in New York. Since the emasculated guards of the harem of Soviet historical science could not produce anything like that (and nothing at all), in 1989 its Russian translation was printed [*Fennell J. The crisis of medieval Russia: 1200 – 1304* – M.: Progress, 1989 – 296 p.; for this edition D. F. submitted his foreword, written in December 1987].

This morning (I am writing March 5, 2022 at 9:37 a.m.) [I read](#):

"The enemy did not stop bombing Kharkiv all night. Residential areas were the most affected – Saltivka, KhTZ, Kholodna Gora and the center. After the bombings, 40 residential buildings caught fire."

In such conditions – I continue...

The interesting stuff starts right from the 1987 preface.

The history of the Chernihiv principality is peripheral to J. F. The term "crisis" in the title shows us the main concept of J. F.: Rus' faced enormous difficulties, but in the 14th century and later began to come out of it – and that was it **the same Rus'**, as in 1200. J. F. did not want to talk about a radical change in the composition of the political subjects in Eastern Europe, for which I think the expression "catastrophe (death) of ancient Rus'" is more appropriate.

On the background of the sounds of very distant explosions, which have become common these days, I continue (March 6, 2022 at 10:45 a.m.). Let no one think that Muscovites have already disappeared. They will disappear, but later.

Another an unfortunate guess J. F. is connected with the battle of Kalka:

Emphasizing the role of Mstislav Svyatoslavich, who inherited the princely throne in Chernihiv after his brother Gleb, and the considerable attention paid to the Chernihiv principality and its minor princes, leave no doubt that the story contained in the Hypatian chronicle is based primarily on another chronicle that has not preserved, namely Chernihiv one [p. 102 – 103].

(Everything is exactly the opposite. This mythical "Chernihiv chronicler" did not even know the name of the son of Mstislav Svyatoslavich, who died during the escape, so later fantasists had to invent this name on their own.)

Until Muscovites don't wake up (I am writing on March 7, 2022 at 8:15 a.m.) and it is quiet here in Kyiv, we must continue to write.

Muscovites fired at the nuclear object in Kharkiv (Physical and Technical Institute) with MLRS – such [the news](#) we are on the third day of a world nuclear war.

Describing the events of 1239, J. F. relied on the dates of the fall of Pereyaslav and Chernihiv from the "Avraamka" chronicle [p. 122] – in my opinion, in vain.

In general, it must be admitted that J. Fennell's book was, for its time, a very good, balanced review of history **North-Eastern Rus'** in the 13th century in its connections with other Rus' lands, but by no means the history of Rus' in the 13th century in general. It is very important that it gave the English-speaking reader at least some idea about this land at that time, because the language barrier cannot be underestimated in any way. No one wanted to translate the social-Marxist-feudal works of Soviet historians either into English or into other languages of the world, and this is another form of manifestation of the barrenness of the emasculated Soviet science.

Serhii Pavlenko (1996)

The battle for Donbas continues – very brutal and very large-scale, but not very public. [They write](#): during April 15, 2022, 10 attacks by Muscovites were repelled. Ten! It's not six or seven anymore!

However – railway connection with Chernihiv [has been restored](#)!

Against this background, I continue (April 16, 2022 at 8:10 am).

Pavlenko S. [Prince Michael of Chernihiv](#) and his challenge to the Horde. – Chernihiv: 1996. – 79 p.

This is a popular book, which, due to a misunderstanding, is called a "research book" in the abstract. Let's see what and how S. P. popularizes.

I was not too lazy to write out the most revealing nonsense from S. Pavlenko's book, written according to the Koza-Dereza method: "Ran across the bridge – grabbed a maple leaf." As you can see, the level of "research" or "popularization" is such that asphalt remains somewhere at an unattainable height.

Meanwhile, in 1996, it was possible to give an abbreviated popular translation of M. Dimnik's book, bypassing the scientific apparatus and polemical fragments. But S. P. didn't know about the existence of this book, and now it's too late to drink borjomi...

Aleksandr Maiorov (2001 – 2021)

Aleksandr Vyacheslavovich Maiorov was born in 1969 in Zaporizhzhia, lives and works in St. Petersburg. His scientific works are devoted exclusively to Rus' of the 13th century, and then mainly to southern Rus' and the campaign of Batu. They are of great interest to my topic.

The last few days – after the Muscovites were driven away from Kyiv – are surprisingly quiet, even the usual clapping of anti-aircraft defenses does not heard. But the battle for Izyum rages on, Mariupol continues to hold on against everything possible and impossible, and information about the crimes of Muscovites in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine is spreading. In particular, in Bucha, in addition to the 67 civilians I already mentioned, the prosecutor's office is studying the corpses of another 410 residents tortured and killed by Muscovites.

In such conditions, I try to stay within the framework of academism (April 5, 2022 at 8:30), although I consider Russian historians complicit in the crimes that Muscovites commit in Ukraine. They are complicit not only as citizens of their country, but also as professionals who convinced the Russian authorities that no Ukraine exists.

Disappointment awaits them – Ukraine does exist, and their scientific works will end up on the same shelf as the works of the theorist of Hitlerism, Alfred Rosenberg.

Maiorov A. V. [Galicia-Volyn Rus'](#). – St. Petersburg: University Book, 2001. – 623 p.

The book as a whole is devoted to the history of the Galician principality from the middle of the 11th to the middle of the 13th century and therefore lies outside my narrow subject. But the author also examines the activities of the Olgovychs princes in those episodes when they interfered in the affairs of the Galician principality. I will consider these subdivisions of the work.

Photos of Chernihiv destroyed by the Muscovites, which for obvious reasons was not published during the siege, began to appear on the Internet (for complete idiots and Muscovites, let me explain – these photos could be used to correct enemy fire!). I'm afraid to watch them, maybe later...

Still continuing (April 6, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

The next subsection that interests me is called "**Intervention of Chernihiv princes in the Galician affairs: Danylo Romanovych and Michael Vsevolodovych**» [p. 560 – 583].

Here again we see Tatishchev's "details" regarding the war of 1235 [p. 563 – 564], the Gustynja chronicle was also used [p. 563].

O. Maiorov's complete trust in Tatishchev's records forces us to place his book in the pre-scientific stage of historiography: everything that was written at least five minutes before this author is declared a "source".

[They write](#) that Muscovites destroyed the railway station in Mykolaiv. I have never been to Mykolaiv, a city named after the same Saint Nicholas of Mirlikia as I am. Can I be indifferent because it is 400 km away and does not affect me directly?

Well, continuing (April 7, 2022 at 8:15 am).

Maiorov A. [Defense of Chernihiv](#) from the Mongol-Tatars in 1239 – "The truth is established by the court of history." Collection in honor of Fedir Pavlovich Shevchenko, K., 2004, vol. 2, p. 128 – 144.

Although the references to Tatishchev and Zotov in this article are not decisive, they confirm the above conclusion that the author's works are examples of pre-scientific historiography.

Individual observations in the article can be accepted, but the reconstruction of the "original story" is generally unacceptable. It seems to me that my version, which involves inserting only one phrase into the IpatL text, is more careful. I try to do operations with a scalpel, not an ax.

Maiorov A. V. [Chronicle news about the defense of Chernihiv](#) against Mongol-Tatars in 1239 (From the commentary to the Galician-Volyn chronicle). – Proceedings of the Department of Old Russian Literature, 2009, vol. 60, p. 311-326.

This article is a Russian translation of the 2004 article discussed above, and this is not even mentioned in the text. The Russians are probably ashamed to admit that they are reprinting articles from Ukrainian publications.

They write: Sumy region has been liberated from Muscovites, but they still remain in 6 regions of eastern and southern Ukraine and are going to start a new offensive operation there.

The war continues, and our defenders continue to die. And I always remember this (April 8, 2022 at 8:00 am).

Maiorov A. V. Rus, Byzantium and Western Europe. – St. Petersburg: Dmitry Bulanin, 2011 – 754 p. On the Academy website this book is divided into two files, probably for technical reasons: [Part 1](#); [Part 2](#).

The content of the book is as follows:

1. "Constitutional project" by Roman Mstislavich: origin and verification. – p. 19 – 110.

This section is devoted to the analysis of Tatishchev's works (the only "source" of this "project") and therefore belongs to the historiography of the 18th century. Therefore, it lies outside the scope of my topic, as well as the next two sections.

7. Between Rome and Nicaea: Russian princes and ecumenical processes in the mid-13th century – p. 635-708.

Maiorov O. M. Galicia-Volyn prince Roman Mstislavich. – Bila Tserkva: Publisher Oleksandr Pshonkivsky, 2011, vol. 1 – 318 p.; vol. 2 – 462 p.

This thick book is not available on the Internet, I cannot say anything about it.

Maiorov A. V. The story of Batu's invasion in the Hypatian chronicle. – *Rossica antiqua*, 2012, No. 1, p. 33 – 94 ([part 1](#)); No. 2, p. 43 – 133 ([part 2](#)).

This article promises a lot of interesting things on my narrow topic.

The news of the Pskov annals about the date of the fall of Chernihiv was retold without criticism of the text [part 1, p. 76]. An attempt to "support" it with the very vague records of Rashid ad-Din and Yuan-Shi [part 1, p. 79] unconvincing – due to the great temporal and territorial distance of the writers of these texts from the events themselves.

In Kramatorsk from a rocket attack by Muscovites on April 8, 2022 [50 civilians killed](#).

Does Aleksandr Maiorov know in his St. Petersburg that he is an accomplice to this war crime? He didn't shoot? And Putin did not shoot, and Minister Shoigu did not shoot. But Maiorov is a citizen of Russia, and he elected this criminal government that kills Ukrainians. A citizen is not only a right, but also a duty, and personal [dis]will has no meaning here. He is a citizen of a criminal state, therefore, an accomplice in its crimes.

Well, as long as I'm not in Kramatorsk and I haven't been killed – I'll continue (April 9 at 9:40).

Considering the chronology of the siege of Kyiv, A. M. right rejected the date of the Pskov chronicles [part 2, p. 54], though mistakenly trusted the same dates of the same Pskov chronicles regarding previous events. He also rejected the date of December 6 – according to A. M., it derives from the 14th-15th centuries [part 2, p. 55]. At this

point, I would like to see a more detailed justification – where this date first appeared and how it was further spread.

They write about new shelling of Kharkiv with serious destruction (April 10, 2022). No, not St. Petersburg yet, so I can not worry about A. Maiorov's life.

Although... War has a lot of dimensions, and one should not think: if it "arrived", then it must be a missile. It can come from a completely unexpected direction...

And I continue (April 10, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

Thus, some of A. M.'s observations in this article seem interesting. At the same time, especially for my narrow topic, it gives little new in comparison with the article of 2004, and this new is not all acceptable.

I look at the sky and think: somewhat can come to a Russian scientist from a completely unexpected direction. Too much when he was born in Ukraine, betrayed the land of his parents and joined the criminal Moscow regime, hoping for "Moscow sables".

If, for example, he is arrested... And they begin to find out who the resident is and what tasks of Ukrainian intelligence he performed while working under the cover of a "university professor"... That would be good! The traitor would get his reward!

And I will continue while I have the opportunity (April 11, 2022 at 8:20 am).

Maivorov A. V. Mongol-Tatars in Galicia-Volyn Rus'. – Rusyn, 2012, No. 4, p. 56-72.

A. M.'s article in this Chekist magazine repeats the content of the previous article in the "scientific", "academic" and "respectable" magazine. Large blocks of text are borrowed without any changes. I will repeat: such auto-plagiarism is natural, but I cannot understand: what does publication in this "magazine" add to science in general and to the scientific reputation of the author in particular.

Unless the money that the "magazine" pays its authors? Or the task that the resident set the "author" and which should serve as a cover for something more interesting?

Maivorov A. V. Efrosinia of Halych. The daughter of the Byzantine emperor in Galicia-Volyn Rus': a princess and a nun. – Bila Tserkva: Oleksandr Pshonkivsky [Publisher], 2013. – 220 p.

Maivorov A. V. The daughter of a Byzantine emperor – the wife of a Galician-Volhynian Prince. – Byzantinoslavica, 2014, vol. 72, no. 1-2, pp. 188-233.

Maivorov A. V. Eufrozyna Halicka. Córka imperatora byzantyńskiego na Rusi Halicko Wołyńskiej (ca. 1176..1180 – after 1253). – Kraków: Avalon, 2016. – 370 p.

These three works are available online, but I don't want to read them. The illustrious Harun ar-Rashid said: "If these books contain the same as the Qur'an, then they are unnecessary; and if they contain something that is not in the Qur'an, then they are harmful."

These books contain what is not in the sources, and no amount of pages can substitute for that.

Maiorov A. V. [Mongol-Tatars and princes of North-Eastern Rus'](#). – Bulletin of the Udmurt State University, 2013, No. 3, p. 26-36.

The article contains subsections: "Peace negotiations Grand Duke Yury Vsevolodovich with the Tatars", "Goals of the Western campaign of the Mongols", "Battle at Kolomna", "Death of Khan Kulkan and its consequences".

In general, the article presents a completely different picture of the Tatars' march to North-Eastern Rus' than the previous historiographical tradition. The assumptions and conclusions made deserve further study.

Maiorov A. V. [The secret of the death of Michael of Chernihiv](#). – Questions of history, 2015, No. 9, p. 95 – 111.

In general, the "secret" discovered by A. Maiorov resembles the anecdotal answer of a careless biology student, who during an exam to a question about fish said: "It is known that fish do not have fur, but if they had it..."

But the war can come to different cities of Russia in the form of refusal of bank cards, and in the form of disappearance of food from stores. Russians like to say "we can do it again" – why not repeat the famine during the blockade of Leningrad? And hunger does not distinguish who is a professor and who is not.

Hoping to see how Muscovites beg each other for a crust of bread – I continue (April 12, 2022 at 8:10 am).

Maiorov A. V. [Batu's conquest of Southern Rus'](#): to the interpretation of one news of Rashid-ad-Din. – Studia slavica et balcanica petropolitana, 2015, No. 1, p. 182 – 193.

The article is not directly related to my narrow topic.

Maiorov A. V. [Mongol conquest of Volyn and Galicia](#): controversial and unresolved issues. – Rusyn, 2015, No. 1, p. 12 – 24.

In simple language, where there are no traces of destruction, there was no resistance to the Tatars, and where there are such traces, there was also no resistance to the Tatars. Such subjectivism in the interpretation of archaeological data says: A. M. knows well what and how it happened, and these data are mercilessly bent to "strengthen" his concept. (And this despite the fact that the interpretation of archaeological data, in particular, their narrow dating, is a very difficult task).

Maiorov A. V. [Rus' princes after the invasion of Batu](#): struggle for Halych and Kyiv. – Stratum plus, 2016, No. 5, p. 49-56.

Assumptions based on previous false assumptions are automatically false.

Maiorov A. V. [The Mongol invasion of South Rus'](#) in 1239–1240s: controversial and unresolved questions. – Journal of Slavic military studies, 2016, vol. 29, no. 3, pp. 473-499.

This article is not available for free, and I am not intended to pay for it. I think that all the previous assumptions of A. M. are repeated there, only in foreign characters.

Maiorov A. V. [Daniil of Halych on his way to Khan Batu](#): to disputes about the duration of the prince's trip to the Horde. – Stratum plus, 2016, No. 6, p. 195 – 202.

A. M.'s assumption is that Daniil went to Batu by Tatar mail – just like John from Plano Carpini and then Rubruk. For my narrow topic, it is interesting that A. M. advocates an early date for Daniil's trip – October 1245 – March 1246 [p. 201].

Maiorov A. V. [Two dates of the capture of Kyiv by the Mongols in Rus' chronicles](#). – Russian literature, 2016, No. 2, p. 51-59.

In this article, A. M. considers very confused messages from the chronicles [Matthew of Paris](#) (written around 1259, 2000 km from Kyiv) and [Waverley Monastery](#) (written at the end of the 13th century, 2200 km from Kyiv).

The Dnieper and Danube were apparently insurmountable obstacles for the Mongols. In order to cross them, the invaders had to wait for strong winter frosts, capable of freezing the rivers with ice, temporarily halting their advance [p. 58].

It is of course absolutely wrong. Why – we'll talk tomorrow.

Barely I had write that in Russia they would look for the guilty and arrest the enemies of the people, – a rumor spread on the Internet that Surkov had already been arrested. No, not the poet Aleksey Surkov, who died in 1983 (although anything can happen in Russia, and such a thing cannot be ruled out), but the adviser to the president, Vladyslav Surkov. And he is not even Ukrainian, but a former Chechen! All the more so former Ukrainians should think about it!

In the hope that the Russians will arrest all these "also Ukrainians" themselves – I continue (April 13, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

The amount of water in the river is determined by the average flow. It is measured either in cubic kilometers per year or cubic meters per second (in this case, the average flow during the year is divided by the number of seconds in the year). So, we have the following numbers:

- Yangtze River – 30,166 m³/s (and how can you imagine the Tatars marching to Burma without crossing the Yangtze River, which, by the way, never freezes?);
- Volga – 8,000 m³/s (and how can you imagine conquering Eastern Europe without crossing the Volga?);
- Danube – 6,400 m³/s (and how can you imagine a war in Hungary and access to the coast of the Adriatic Sea without crossing the Danube?);
- Yellow River – 2,571 m³/s (and how can you imagine the conquest of China by the Tatars without multiple crossings the Yellow River back and forth?);

Tatars crossed all these rivers many times in different directions without the slightest problem (at least such problems are not recorded in written sources).

The conclusion is simple: if you don't know how to cross rivers, don't fight. And the Tatars fought, so they knew how to cross.

Maiorov A. V. [The Mongolian capture of Kyiv](#): the two dates. – Slavonic and East European review, 2016, vol. 94, no. 4, pp. 702 – 714.

This is a translation of the article discussed above, including the impossibility of crossing:

Both the Dnieper and the Danube appear to have been insurmountable obstacles for the Mongols. To cross them, the invaders had to wait until hardwinter frost would lock the rivers and thus halted their advance [p. 712].

Maiorov A. V. [Prince Michael of Chernihiv](#): from maneuverer to martyr. – Kritika, 2017, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 237-256.

This is a translation of the 2015 article "The Secret of the Death of Michael of Chernihiv", in particular, here we have:

The residents of Neumarkt may, however, have mistaken the detachment of a Russian prince for a Mongol vanguard or intelligence gathering unit [p. 250 = Mystery, p. 111].

Only an unforeseen contingency – the unexpected assault of the Germans in Neumarkt against his retinue and supply wagons – prevented the Russian prince from implementing his plan to join the battle. Instead he returned to Mazovia after the defeat and the death of the Silesian duke [p. 252 = Mystery, p. 112].

Maiorov A. V. Diplomacy, war and a witch: peace negotiations before the Mongol invasion of Rus'. – In: Alexander V. Maiorov and Roman Hautala (eds.), The Routledge Handbook of the Mongols and Central-Eastern Europe, London and New York: Routledge, 2021, pp. 36 – 81.

This article is not freely available online. Knowing what A. M. wrote on the topic of these negotiations earlier, one can think that the same thoughts are presented here in Latin characters.

Maiorov A. V. [The first Mongol invasion of Europe](#): goals and results. – Journal of the Royal Asian Society, 2021, Series 3, vol. 31, p. 1 – 28.

In this article, A. M. analyzes the migration of the Tatars to the west in 1221-1223, in particular, he cites a quote from C. de Bridia:

"blood ran on both sides up to the horses' bridles, according to those who took part in this war" [p. 4]

Well, the further the author keeps himself from the event, the higher the level of blood rises in his work, so that the Hypatian chronicle with his infant Vasyly, who drowned in blood, is overcome.

Considering A. Maiorov's creative work as a whole (as of the beginning of 2022), it should be noted his great attention to source studies, which puts his science at a much higher level than all the works we considered above.

During the considered 20 years, A. M. gradually got rid of some ideas that were worth getting rid of. Thus, after 2001, the "Froyanov school" with its "inter-communal wars" imperceptibly disappeared, the last references to Tatishchev and Zotov date back to 2012. This is also definitely a positive movement in the direction from pre-scientific historiography towards scientific one.

Unfortunately, by using C. de Bridia, who in terms of fiction surpasses Tatishchev and Zotov combined, A. M. showed that pre-scientific historiography continues to beckon him.

Two provisions of A. M. are especially important for my narrow topic: 1, the reality of the "treaty" of the three princes with the Tatars in 1239; 2, the intention of Michael Vsevolodovich to fight with the Tatars in 1241. I consider them erroneous.

Volodymyr Bodrukhyn (2002)

They write that more than five hundred people died in Kharkiv from the fire of Russian war criminals, and about two thousand houses were destroyed.

Although curfew continues in Kyiv, life in our city is recovering. So, I continue (March 15, 2022 at 8:20 am).

V. M. Bodrukhyn [Chernihiv land-principality](#). – Luhansk: Publishing House of the Eastern Ukrainian National University, 2002. – 132 p.

This very small book in its plan is similar to the old monographs of Golubovsky and Bagalij. It contains sections: "Chernihiv region as a part of the Ancient Rus' state" (here the subsection "Slavic colonization"), "Principalities-lands of Kyivan Rus'", "Political history" (this is the 12th century), "Mongolian-Tatar era", "Lithuanian era".

The book as a whole is compilative, quotations from previous authors make up about half of the text, and V. B.'s text, where it is not a connection between adjacent quotations, is full of errors of his own production, some of which I noted above. As a result of the compilation, the book arbitrarily mixes old "partitional", newer "feudal" and modern "national" terminology. The book does not solve the task set at the beginning and cannot solve it due to the inability of the author to write at least half a page on his own.

Denys Khrustalev (2008)

During the time that I was reading the book mentioned below (April 29 – May 2, 2022), our soldiers destroyed 62 Pushkinist tanks and only 5 Lermontoid aircraft (it seems that Muscovites are running out of aircraft, and they began to spend them more sparingly). Also, two Russian boats were sunk and the command post of the 2nd Russian Army near Izyum was destroyed, Gerasimov, the chief of the General Staff of the Muscovites, was wounded.

The latter did not happen either to Moltke, or to Keitel, Shaposhnikov or Antonov.

While our soldiers are setting new world records, I can continue (May 3, 2022 at 8:15 am).

Looking into [Wikipedia](#), I learned that the Russian actor Denis Khrustalev (b. 1973) has a very wide range of directions for his efforts – from art criticism to the automation of production management and from the organization of cartels to archery.

He also wrote many books on history, one of which – "Rus' from invasion to the yoke" – has already five editions from 2004 to 2018 and brought the author the gold medal of Kublai Khan (this is not a joke!). I don't have the most recent edition of it, and I read what was readily available online:

Khrustalev D. G. [Rus' from the invasion to the "yoke"](#). – St. Petersburg: Eurasia, 2008. – 384 p.

The general impression of this book is quite positive (I continue my attempts to stay within the framework of science, although I consider D. Khrustalev guilty of all the crimes committed by Muscovites in Ukraine). It is written in a popular

style, in an easy and understandable language, while preserving the main features of science. So the publishers of the book, who often release new editions, can be understood: the book turned out to be really interesting and not at all similar to the "driest things" that real "academic scientists" feed us.

[They write](#) (May 3, 2022) that a large warehouse of printed production burned near Moscow. On the one hand, it is possible that Denys Khrustalev was not harmed because there were not his books. And on the other hand, it is possible that all three hectares of the warehouse to a height of 10 meters were lined with stacks of Khrustalev's books and now it all burned down. Beauty!

So, on this optimistic note, I continue (May 4, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.).

The reign of Yaroslav Vsevolodovych in Kyiv was short-lived. He arrived in the city in the spring of 1237, at the end of the same year he left the south of Rus' and rushed to Novgorod to collect help for his brother Yuri, who entered into a deadly confrontation with Batu. Yaroslav did not have time to help North-Eastern Rus' [p. 152].

I think that this return of Yaroslav to Novgorod, not recorded in the sources, was technically impossible.

Finally, the main idea of D. Kh.'s entire book is presented at the very beginning:

The onslaught of the horde, which swept through Rus' lands like a tornado, caused significant (catastrophic) damage to the population and economy of Rus', and affected social and demographic processes in many regions. However, it did not destroy the internal political structure, the social system of the Rus' principalities [p. 5].

The destruction of the four principalities of southern Rus' (Kyiv, Pereyaslav, Chernihiv, and Halych) is, from D. Kh.'s point of view, no destruction of the internal political structure and social system of ancient Rus'.

That is why he prefers to write not about the destruction of Chernihiv and Pereyaslav, but about their transformation into small towns; not about the destruction of the Kyiv principality, but about its transfer under the rule of the Vladimir and Moscow princes; not about the destruction of the Galician principality, but about the final establishment of Daniil's power there.

This is unconditional and **systematic** distortion of the content of the described events.

I also adopted a popular presentation style for my story, and that independently of D. Khrustalev (I opened his book for the first time on April 29, 2022, when the main part of my work was already written). I think that this style of presentation is really timely, and I hope that I came out more scientifically.

Stanislav Kelembet (2017 – 2019)

They write: Russian war criminals hit Kremenchuk with 9th rockets, an oil refinery and a thermal power plant were hit, 1 killed, 7 wounded (first strike to was still April 2, 2022).

But there are good news: an oil depot is on fire in Bryansk (key for the Druzhba oil pipeline).

Do not forget, dear readers, in what circumstances I am writing this (April 25, 2022 at 9:30 am).

Ukrainian historian Stanislav Kelembet has published a number of articles of interest to my topic in the last decade. Fortunately, all of them are available in digital form, because I have never seen the paper "Siveryansk Chronicle", and even more so other editions with its articles.

(1) *Kelembet S. Michael Vsevolodovych, Grand Duke of Chernihiv and Kyiv: some issues of origin, biography and family composition. – Siveryansk Chronicle, 2017, No. 1-2, p. 11 – 19.*

And then, on the p. 16, S. K. writes about another "daughter" of Michael – Feodulia. Should it have been rejected on p. 13 one late legend in order to accept another legend of the same kind three pages later?

Well, it is impossible for me read more than one article a day. When will I read 4,000 articles at such a rate? And without this, I will not be able to concure with real academic scientists and doctors of historical sciences...

But I always remember that my ability to read articles and continue my work is paid for by the blood and lives of Ukrainian soldiers who beat the Rotten Straw Horde. So, I continue (April 26, 2022 at 8:10 am).

(2) *Kelembet S. Oleg-Pavlo Igorevich, prince of Kursk and Grand Duke of Chernihiv. – Siveryansk Chronicle, 2017, No. 4, p. 3 – 13.*

One late fantasy is explained by another late fantasy, and this opens the field for new and new fantasies already produced by S. K.

Yesterday there were alarming reports about attempts by the Muscovites to advance on Zaporizhzhia and Kryvyj Rig, and this morning (April 27, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.) we already have good news – the ammunition depot is on fire near Belgorod and something unknown exploded in Voronezh. And they would not smoke where smoking is prohibited!

Well, while I have the opportunity – I continue.

(3) *Kelembet S. Mstislav III-Fedor Glibovych, Grand Duke of Chernihiv. – Siveryansk Chronicle, 2017, No. 5, p. 13 – 29.*

The article ends with a consideration of the mention of the murder of Andrij Mstislavich (T-176) and an attempt to find out – son of whose Mstislav he was [p. 23-24]. This case is completely hopeless, and S. K.'s new attempt confirms this.

(4) *Kelembet S. Grand Dukes of Chernihiv: the first decades of Mongol rule. – Siveryansk Chronicle, 2017, No. 6, p. 3 – 11.*

In this article, S. K. once again addressed the Vvedensky and Ljubech synodikons. The "sequence" of the rule of these princes in Chernihiv is purely speculative. Fantasies do not need any sources, on the contrary, they only get in the way.

(5) *Kelembet S.* [Chernihiv boyars of the Mongol period](#). – Siveryansk Chronicle, 2018, No. 3, p. 3 – 9.

Thus, we do not learn anything new about the promised boyars from S. Kelembet's article. Did anyone have doubts?

Sitting in relatively safe Kyiv and not hearing the constant echo of the work of our artillery (as was the case in March), it is very easy to forget that there is a war going on somewhere and defenders of Ukraine continue to die. Meanwhile, the battle for Donbas is boiling, and I think our defense minister had reason to warn that the next few weeks will be very difficult.

And I will continue as long as I can (April 28, 2022 at 8:10 am).

(6) *Kelembet S. N.* [Grand Dukes of Chernihiv](#): Mongol period (1246–1372). – *Studia historica Europae Orientalis. Studies on the history of Eastern Europe* (Minsk), 2018, vol. 11, p. 72 – 113.

In contrast to the article about the Chernihiv boyars, published in the same year 2018 and discussed above, in this article S. K. is skeptical (i.e. right) evaluates the pedigree of the Tolstoj family.

So, all those teachings about the fantasticness of genealogies, which I so painstakingly wrote out, are completely unnecessary for S. K., because he knows them perfectly even without me. Only one mystery remains – which "Stanislav Kelembet" is correct? The one who accepts the plausibility of genealogies, or the one who does not? Could it be that there are two different authors who hold opposite views, but for some reason publish their articles under the same name?

The article as a whole turned out to be weak, erroneous and anti-scientific.

(7) *Kelembet S. N.* [Princes of Novgorod-Seversky](#): the late 12th – early 14th century. – *Ancient Russia. Questions of medieval studies*, 2019, No. 4, p. 5 – 17.

The abstract of the article does not promise anything good:

The article examines the question of the princes who ruled in Novgorod-Seversky after the famous Igor Svyatoslavich – during the period, about which no records have been preserved in the annals. The main source for the research is the synodikon of the Introduction Church in the Near Caves of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra [p. 5].

In this article, which was published the following year after my work on the Vvedensky synodikon, S. K. adopt and continue system of ignoring my works. Does he understand that by doing this he writes out a patent for himself as an "anti-scientist"? And this patent was issued in Moscow and signed by 31 doctors of science, including 1 (one) academician and 4 (four) corresponding members (as many of them are listed in the editorial board of the journal in question).

At the same time, the list of my articles ignored by S. Kelembet was supplemented by two more items: "[Mythical "Kyiv princes" from the mythical "Putyvl dynasty"](#)" and

"[The mythical "conquest of Kyiv" by Gedimin](#)"» (both published in 2018). In his article, S. K. touches on the same topics to which these my articles are devoted.

The article ends with a list of 9 (nine) mythical "princes" of Novgorod-Siversky, who "ruled" from 1198 to the beginning of the 14th century.

I will repeat once again: I do not follow the method of "academic scientists" and I do not ignore the works of those researchers who ignore my works. I am interested in the subject itself, not in my role in researching this subject. That's why I reviewed S. Kelembet's articles in detail and did not find any new ideas there. There are many repetitions of old ideas, mainly those of R. V. Zotov, but there are no new ones. It can be said that S. Kelembet tried to get the title "Zotov of our days" – and got it.

Reviewing the "scientific" work of S. Kelembet as a whole, I can state the following features inherent in it:

- 1, the pre-scientific level of most texts, the use of Tatishchev and Zotov as "sources";
- 2, falsification of history, ignoring sources that contradict the views of the author;
- 3, an anti-scientific approach, which consists in ignoring special works directly devoted to the same issues that the author considers.

Conclusions

[They write](#), that at least 226 Ukrainian children have been killed since the beginning of the criminal war of the Rotten-Straw Horde against Ukraine.

Children, my love! At least (that is, it can be more)!

I understand – if I walk on the walls and further on the ceiling from such news, it will not change anything in the course of our righteous war with the Horde. Therefore, I continue what I can do (May 9, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.), and I ask readers to remember the "blood price" of this section of my work.

What can be the conclusions from the works read on the narrow topic I have chosen?

Regarding the periodization of the development of historical thought, three periods can be distinguished:

- the first **scientific period**, represented by the monographs of P. Golubovsky and D. Bagalij. Not everything is perfect in these works, and the main drawback is the adherence to the "partial-viche theory" that was widespread at the time, although no traces of the "viche" are visible in the Chernihiv lands, and even with the partial principalities there it is difficult;

- it was replaced by the first **pre-scientific period**, which began with the publication of a completely fantastic book by R. Zotov in 1892 and continues to this day. So, "development" in our particular case goes from better to worse, to the presentations that is clogged with the fantasies of Tatishchev and Zotov (we have "negative progress", as modern rotten-straw propagandists say);

- the second **scientific period** must begin with my work, which for the first time rejects all the fiction accumulated over the past 130 years. Whether it will really start, or whether works of a pre-scientific level will continue to be published – I cannot know.

Part of the works of the pre-scientific period is at the same time anti-scientific, which manifested itself in the application of the obviously erroneous concepts of "feudalism" and "class struggle" to the selected material.

Another sign of the anti-scientific approach is the ignoring of special works devoted to the same topics on which the actors of the anti-scientific approach "work". This tendency has not yet become general, so it is too early to talk about the anti-scientific period that replaced the pre-scientific period. But anything can happen, and such a possibility should not be dismissed.

The greatest merit in the study of the ancient history of Chernihiv region belongs to Martin Dimnik, whose books give the most balanced and complete picture of events. We have a very rare case when a person, who is in no way connected with the Chernihiv region, chose the history of this region as the main theme of his life. It is a pity that our historians ignore his achievements, and his name is unknown in Ukraine.

The main type of scientific works on the topic are monographs that consider the history of Chernihiv region "in a tangent", while considering a wider range of topics of the history of Rus' in the 13th century or even the history of ancient Rus' in general. Among those discussed in more detail are the books by Mavrodin, Fennell, and Maiorov. Similarly, those authors who put the Tatar invasion in the center (Nasonov, Khrustalev) touch lightly on the history of Chernihiv region. The list of such books can be continued.

This is neither good nor bad – the state of our sources is such that it forces the authors to talk about all of Rus'. That is why I did not want to select fragments about Chernihiv region from general works, and that is why N. M. Karamzin, M. S. Hrushevsky, B. D. Grekov and P. P. Tolochko are not in my historiography, although such fragments are undoubtedly present in their books.

Did the general features of the movement of historical thought manifest in the studies of Chernihiv region?

Yes, we have at least two such manifestations. The first is the lost time of Soviet historiography, and the second is the division of the historiographical process into normal and Soviet. As a result, in 1981, Martin Dimnik in Canada continued the studios of Golubovsky and Bagalij in Kyiv, and if the number of centuries on the title page had not changed from "8" to "9", no one would have noticed that a hundred years had passed between them.

Were there any special influencing factors in these studios?

Thus, on the example of the Chernihiv-princely science, one can very vividly show the role of the individual in history, and even more specifically – **negative** the role of a person in history. Rafail Zotov and his "research" can be compared to the evil fairy Karabos, who enchanted the castle of Sleeping Beauty for a hundred years. These hundred years have passed just at the time of the independence of Ukraine, but the sleeping beauty does not show any signs of awakening at all and prefers to remain in a lethargic sleep, to which everyone is accustomed as a normal state. Will a knight appear who will cut down the thorns that overgrown the castle and still wake up the beauty, unite the separated historiographic currents and direct them in a normal (scientific) direction?

Well, for this the knight must start by realizing the fact that the current state is not normal...

An unfortunate conclusion for me from the study of historiography is the lack of a scientific method, which historians of ancient Rus' have not been able to develop in two hundred and a half years since Karamzin. No one has tried to lay out the research procedure in the form of an algorithm, that is, a finite sequence of steps that lead to the goal. It seems that our historians do not even understand why such an algorithm is needed.

List of abbreviations

- GVL** – Galicia-Volyn chronicle, the last part of the Hypatian chronicle.
- GVLТ** – [Galician-Volyn chronicle: textology](#). – K.: Akademičeskaja literatura, 2020. – 929 p., edited by O. P. Tolochko.
- EL** – Ermolin's chronicle [PSRL, 1910, vol. 23].
- IpatL** – Hypatian chronicle [PSRL, vol. 2; there are several editions, including [network](#) one].
- LA** – "Avraamka" chronicle [PSRL, 1889, vol. 16; 2018, vol. 44].
- LL** – Laurentian chronicle [PSRL, vol. 1; there are several editions, including [network](#) one].
- LPS** – Chronicler of Pereyaslav-Suzdal [PSRL, 1995, vol. 41].
- MAL** – Moscow academic chronicle [PSRL, 1928, vol. 1, part 3, col. 524 – 540].
- MZ1492** – Moscow codex of 1492 [PSRL, 1949, vol. 25].
- N1LSI** – Novgorod 1st Chronicle [older recension](#) [Novgorod first chronicle of the oldest and youngest recension / A. N. Nasonov. – M.-L., 1950].
- NikL** – Nikon's chronicle [PSRL, 1862-1904, vol. 9 – 13].
- NKL** – Novgorod Karamzin's chronicle [PSRL, 2002, vol. 42].
- PSRL** – Polnoe sobranie russikh letopisej (Complete collection of Russian chronicles). For each volume, I indicate the first edition (it is the most accessible on the Internet). In the last 20 years, reprints have been published that contain new prefaces, but the text of the monuments is everywhere scanned, without new processing of the manuscripts.
- RadzL** – Radziwiłł chronicle [PSRL, 1989, vol. 38].
- RogL** – Rogozhsky chronicle [PSRL, 2000, vol. 15].
- S1LSI** – Sofia 1st chronicle older recension [PSRL, 2000, vol. 6, no. 1].
- SimL** – Simeon chronicle [PSRL, 1913, vol. 18].
- TL** – Trinity chronicle [Pryselkov M. D. [Trinity Chronicle](#). Reconstruction of the text. – Moscow: 1950].